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There are lots of different recycling symbols on packaging, aimed at different people and with quite different meanings. This quick guide aims to help you de-code them!

	<p>The On-Pack Recycling Labels are designed exclusively for UK consumers and tells you whether you can recycle particular sorts of packaging here in the UK.</p> <p>They are based on how commonly local councils offer recycling services, either by collections from your home (kerbside) or at recycling centres.</p> <p>The On-Pack Recycling Label is now the UK's most widely recognised and acted on recycling label for packaging. It's on tens of thousands of product lines – everything from cereals packets to furniture polish, clothing to paint cans, shower units to magazine films.</p> <p>If you can't see the On-Pack Recycling Label on something you've bought, why not write to the company and ask them if they've thought of joining our scheme? Then you'll know how to recycle that packaging in future.</p>
	<p>The Mobius Loop is an international symbol that simply tells you that somewhere in the world it is possible to recycle the packaging material. If there's a number in the centre this gives the recycled content of the packaging.</p> <p>If you find this label on packaging why not contact the product manufacturer and ask them to use the On-Pack Recycling Label scheme instead? Then you'll understand whether you can recycle it in your council's collections.</p>
	<p>The Green Dot is not a recycling symbol. It's used in some European countries (but not the UK) to show that the producer has paid a tax towards recovering and recycling packaging.</p> <p>UK firms producing packaging also pay this tax, but there's no UK mark confirming this.</p> <p>If you find this label on packaging why not contact the product manufacturer and ask them to use the On-Pack Recycling Label scheme instead? Then you'll understand whether you can recycle it in your council's collections.</p>

	<p>The Glass Bottle Bank symbol just reminds you to take your bottles to a recycling centre or put them in your recycling bin at home. Since virtually all UK local councils collect glass it means the same as</p> 
	<p>The Recyclable Aluminium symbol reminds you that aluminium cans and containers can (and should) be recycled. Since virtually all UK local councils collect aluminium cans, on cans it means the same as our Widely Recycled label.</p> <p>Aluminium foil may not be recyclable in your home collection, so you need to check on your council website or on www.recyclenow.com</p> 
	<p>The Recyclable Steel symbol reminds you that steel cans and containers can (and should) be recycled. Since virtually all UK local councils collect steel cans, on food cans it means the same as our Widely Recycled label.</p> <p>Paint cans are not generally accepted in your home collection, so you need to take them to your local council recycling centre, where they can also divert any unused paint into charitable projects. On paint cans this symbol means the same as</p> 
	<p>The Resin Identification Code is aimed at recycling processors. It tells them the type of plastic so they can process it in the correct recycling stream.</p> <p>This family of symbols does not tell you as a consumer whether you can recycle that type of plastic in your home collection or local recycling centre.</p>

	<p>If you find this label on packaging why not contact the product manufacturer and ask them to use the On-Pack Recycling Label scheme instead. Depending on the type of packaging the label would then be one of the following:</p>  
	<p>The 'Seedling' is a European-wide label which tells consumers that the material is a bio-plastic which can be composted by industrial processors.</p> <p>Packaging with this symbol on MUST NOT BE RECYCLED since it contaminates plastic recycle, preventing it from being re-used for packaging.</p> <p>Packaging with this symbol MUST be put in your food or waste bin.</p>
	<p>The National Association of Paper Merchants' mark tells consumers how much of the paper or board packaging is made from recycled materials.</p> <p>Since virtually all UK local councils collect paper and cardboard you can treat it as if it were marked</p> 
 	<p>The Forest Stewardship Council label tells consumers that the paper or cardboard packaging was made from wood grown in well managed forests certified by the FSC. It will show whether all the wood fibre is from FSC forests, or whether it is from mixed sources.</p> <p>FSC has also developed a label that shows when the packaging is made from recycled paper or cardboard that was originally made from wood from FSC certified forests.</p> <p>The Rainforest Alliance is one of the bodies which certifies FSC forests, so seeing their Frog symbol shows that this is from an FSC forest.</p> <p>These labels can be used alongside the On-Pack Recycling Label. If they're</p>

	<p>on their own, since virtually all UK local councils collect paper and cardboard, you can treat it as if it were marked</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">   </div>
 	<p>The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification label tells consumers that the paper of cardboard packaging was made from wood grown in sustainably managed forests, or from recycled wood materials originally grown in certified forests.</p> <p>Since virtually all UK local councils collect paper and cardboard you can treat it as if it were marked</p> 
	<p>The Tidyman symbol is not a recycling label. It tells consumers to dispose of the packaging responsibly, avoiding litter. It is often used on packaging on products you use on-the-go.</p> <p>The Tidyman symbol can be used alongside any of the On-Pack Recycling Labels. When there is an On-Pack Recycling Label present, follow that advice and recycle the packaging where possible, rather than putting it in a waste bin.</p> <p>If you find the Tidyman on packaging by itself, why not contact the product manufacturer and ask them to use the On-Pack Recycling Label scheme as well.</p>