

Plastic packaging often not recyclable

Only 27 per cent of all plastic packaging can be recycled properly. That proportion has hardly changed in the past seven years. This is the conclusion of researchers at Wageningen Food & Biobased Research. 'The proportion of packaging that is properly recyclable should and could increase a lot,' says researcher Marieke Brouwer. As much as a further 29 per cent of plastic packaging could be made recyclable through simple alterations to labels, caps

or the adhesive. But about a quarter of the packaging cannot easily be improved: it is too small for the sorting process or there is no recyclable alternative that maintains the shelf life to the same extent. A further 18 per cent requires new sorting or recycling processes to be developed, for example for PET trays for meat and fish. These percentages do not reflect actual recycling practice.

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