

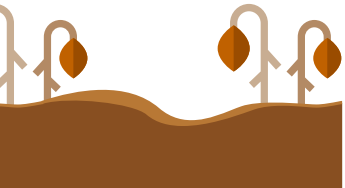
# What happens when you burn, bury or allow your plastic waste to be blown or washed into the environment?

## 1. Water quality



- Nearby watercourses carry the plastic out to sea contributing to plastic pollution.
- This increases the risk of ingestion and entanglement by wildlife.

## 2. Soil health



- Unknown impact on soil productivity and ability to store carbon.
- Threat to food security, part of the climate emergency.

## 3. Air quality



- The smoke releases toxic chemicals and greenhouse gases
- This contributes to the climate emergency.

## Farm plastics

Did you know you can recycle your farm plastics?

They may come back to you as a hen house, calf shelter, dog kennel, pig house, fencing...

There are lots of waste carriers that collect farm plastics for recycling in the UK. One collector states that 98% of the farm plastics they have collected has been recycled.

**You must not burn, bury or allow your plastic waste to be blown or washed into the environment.**



# Recycle your farm plastics

Good plastic waste management is easier and potentially cheaper than you think. Keeping waste as clean as possible can also reduce collection costs and increase value for money. But remember, you must keep your waste secure and remove it from your farm within 12 months.

The following suggestions from farmers could save time and money as well as protect the environment:

- Collect up the waste after it has been used and store it securely.
- Take plastic straight off the bale and into a bag.
  - Re-use bags made from woven polypropylene e.g. seed, feed or dumpy bags.
  - Ensure they are not cut in any way and have pallet loops.
- Have dedicated bins or bags near the locations where plastics are used.
- Shake it after use and store inside or on a hardstanding.
- Hang over door for 24 hours to let moisture drip off.

# How to find a recycler

- Search for **‘farm plastic recycling’**.
- There are at least 15 farm plastic recyclers in the South.
- Ensure that:
  - the person who collects the waste is registered with the Environment Agency or,
  - the site the waste is taken to is registered with the Environment Agency.
- Check the database: Waste carriers, brokers and dealers ([data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk)).
- This could help reduce the risk of fly-tipping on your land.

