

## Where Food Comes From: Food Packaging Knowledge Organiser

### Key Point

Does the impact of packaging on the environment outweigh the value of packaging itself?

Functions of Packaging	Description
Preserve	To ensure the product stays fresh.
Protect	To ensure the product is not damaged.
Prevent	To ensure the product has not been contaminated.
Transport	To ensure the product is quickly and easily delivered.

Type of Packaging	Examples	Advantages	Disadvantages
Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bottles;</li> <li>ready meal containers;</li> <li>yoghurt pots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>easy to manufacture in large quantities;</li> <li>can be recycled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>causes litter;</li> <li>relies on user recycling;</li> <li>does not biodegrade.</li> </ul>
Paper and board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cartons;</li> <li>grocery bags;</li> <li>egg boxes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can be recycled;</li> <li>can biodegrade;</li> <li>strong and lightweight;</li> <li>cheap to produce.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>foil lined board can be difficult to recycle;</li> <li>can be easily damaged;</li> <li>not waterproof.</li> </ul>
Metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>aluminium and steel cans;</li> <li>foil trays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>used for a variety of products;</li> <li>oldest form of preservation;</li> <li>can be recycled.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>relies on user to recycle;</li> <li>does not biodegrade.</li> </ul>
Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bottles;</li> <li>jars.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reusable;</li> <li>easily and readily recycled;</li> <li>rigid;</li> <li>moisture proof.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>easily broken – causing it to be dangerous to handle.</li> </ul>

### Biodegradable Packaging

Biodegradable packaging reduces the amount of waste going into landfill. It can decompose with the aid of microorganisms such as air and water. It can be made from renewable sources. For example, corn may be used to make sandwich packages.

Sustaining Packaging	Examples
Reuse	<p>Use products packaged in a refill pack.</p> <p>Use products packaged in reusable containers.</p> <p>Reuse jars for home preservation.</p>
Recycle	<p>Card, paper, board, glass and some plastics can all be taken to a recycle banks.</p> <p>Some local councils encourage recycling by providing households with a recycle bin collected on a monthly or fortnightly basis.</p>

