

Stainless Steel

and why Dolphin use it in the manufacture of many of their dispensers – not only is it durable and aesthetically pleasing but it benefits the environment as well

Recycling and the long term life of stainless steel

Today, where environmental issues are so important in saving and preserving our world, stainless steel can emerge as an excellent recyclable material.



“Did you know stainless steel is 100% recyclable?”

Stainless steel is theoretically 100% recyclability and its long term life makes it an ideal environmental performer much better than many other materials. Stainless steel products are designed to have a long life; often spanning over several decades. This long term life generally is the reason for choosing stainless steel in the first place. However of course there will be a time when the stainless steel does come to the end of its useful life. The end of life may be reached due to fashion changes (product still functions but the design is out-dated), technological redundancy (product is replaced by a more efficient technology) or the product reaches the end of its design life.



Even though the end of life is reached, this does not mean that the stainless steel is not useful as a recyclable product. The main alloying elements of stainless steel (chromium, nickel and molybdenum) are all highly valuable and can be easily be recovered and separated from other materials.

“Did you know that any stainless steel object has an approximate recycled content of 60%”

In 2007, around 27 million tonnes of stainless steel were produced, taking approximately 16 million tonnes of recycled stainless steel and other materials to generate this quantity. The amount of recycled stainless steel in any stainless object is approximately 60%, this will increase however as the use of stainless steel expands as stainless steel produced today will not necessarily be recycled for 20-30 years.

Typically stainless steel is made up of:

- **25% Old scrap such as end of life products**
- **35% New scrap which is returning from production**
- **40% New raw materials added**
- **The Dolphin Prestige range of dispensers typically have a recycled content of approximately 98%!**

Despite the very high recyclability properties of stainless steel, in some circumstances stainless steel will still find its way into disposal sites etc. Unlike many other metals, in this situation stainless steel will have no damaging effects on the soil and water.

So how does stainless steel improve modern day life?

Stainless steel has many environmental and social benefits. Stainless steel products enable us to lead a healthier life and are cleaner for the environment as well.

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