



FACT SHEET

Re-use is not necessarily “environmentally friendlier” than recycling

Re-use is not always the better environmental choice. Resources such as non-renewable fossil fuels and energy are sometimes required to set up and deliver reusable systems. Water and chemicals are frequently used to wash reusable containers and there are air emissions and waste in constantly shipping reusable containers back and forth. Lower environmental impact can often be obtained from the one-way lightweight pack that is recycled again and again.

See related blogs on sanitisation issues with reusable containers:

Salmonella survives plastic crate washing test, transfers to fresh cucumber	12/04/2019
LCA shows balanced environmental results for produce container systems	06/19/2019
Fact and fiction in the fight to deliver your fruit and veggies	05/04/2017
Retailers can't duck food safety issues when pushing growers to re-use crates	03/28/2017
A moving (and puzzling) story about dead Toronto chickens	12/20/ 2016
Retailers urged to “follow the science” on sanitisation	11/11/2016
Food scientist warns retailers that live bacteria on crates is like a "smoking gun"	03/02/2015
It is not as simple as re-use versus recycling	02/12/2015
This is not a puff piece but ...	12/11/2014
Re-use is not always the better alternative	10/26/2014