

Assembly Resource

Look at the information below. Are you surprised by the number of disposable masks that have been used over the course of the pandemic? Do you know if there is anywhere close to you that recycles face masks? How important do you think it is for people to consider the type of mask they buy?

**What happens to non-recycled face masks?**

**Where can masks be recycled?**

**8bn** tonnes of mass-produced commercial plastic has been created.

Most stays on land.

But every minute of every day the equivalent of a truckload of plastic reaches the ocean.

Source: The Sun Newspaper

**MASK FORCE**  
*Sun*

Source: The Sun Newspaper

**129bn** plastic facemasks a month are being worn by people worldwide.

Billions of plastic facemasks are littering the world, killing wildlife and damaging the environment.

**450 years**

The length of time it takes plastic in masks to degrade

Source: The Sun Newspaper

Some supermarkets, including Wilko and Morrisons, have branches that are offering single use mask recycling and local authorities, including Brighton and Hove, are offering public mask recycling bins.

**wilko #ReclaimTheMask** in partnership with

Masks are collected in-store

Then sent to ReWorked for material sorting...

...where it's washed & shredded

The shredded plastic heated to 200° & pressed in the board mill...

...where it becomes solid sheets of recycled plastic

The boards can be made into new items, destined for a new life.

**What is the alternative to single use face masks?**

Georgia-Rose Johnson, shopping specialist at [finder.com](http://finder.com)

Our research has shown that many being used are single use, are not being recycled and take over 20 years to break down in landfill.

Choosing a reusable cloth mask will enable you to wear them multiple times and will help to decrease the number of masks heading to landfill.

The information above is part of the Sun newspaper's Mask Force campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the damage not disposing of plastic face masks can have on the environment.