



# CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

**Reducing plastic waste is important for shooting as well as society at large. Here are some options and considerations for recycling your spent shotgun cartridges.**

## Agri-cycle

Agri-cycle is the only company in the UK which is able to recycle all components of a spent shotgun cartridge, 100% of the plastic, metal and paper is taken and used in some way. Agri-cycle can cater for a shoot of any size or type, be that clay or game and provide collection containers depending on the quantity of spent cartridges produced.

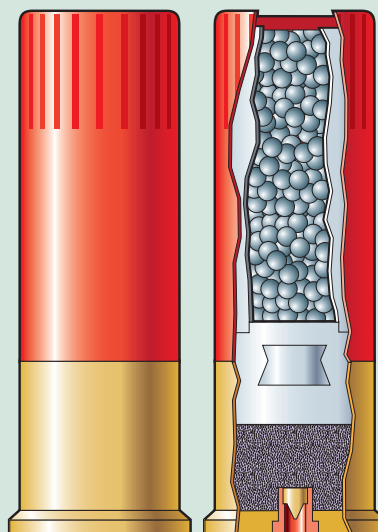
**Laporte clay pigeon company** offer a joint service alongside Agri-cycle and will collect spent cartridges when delivering their clays to shooting grounds. Agri-cycle ask that the bags are used only for spent cartridges and that they are kept dry either undercover or by being covered by a tarpaulin.

## Collecting cases from everyone

1. As a shoot you could collaborate with other local shoots to set up a local collection point that you can all use.
2. Alternatively, you could co-ordinate collection days with other local shoots to reduce the haulage value.

## What are they made of?

Cartridge shells are made up of two principal components: a case and a base. The case is typically made of plastic but can also still be made of paper and the base is typically brass plated steel.



## What sort of waste are spent shotgun cartridges?

Spent shotgun cartridges are classed as a 'Directive Waste'. Directive wastes include nearly all household, commercial and industrial wastes. Even though spent shotgun cartridges contain lead (hazardous substance) residues, lead is not present in the quantities required for it to be classed as a 'Hazardous Waste'. Spent shotgun cartridges are therefore classed as a 'Non-hazardous Waste' and are subject to the regulations governing non-hazardous waste.

## Other methods of disposal

### Disposal of live/misfired shotgun cartridges:

Contact your local police firearms licensing authority who can collect live or misfired cartridges and dispose of them.

The Health and Safety Executive also provides guidance on disposal of large quantities of live or misfired ammunition.

DO NOT dispose of live or misfired cartridges through domestic waste, burial or burning - it is illegal and dangerous.



NB: BASC does not accept responsibility for any misinterpretation of guidance. It is the responsibility of members to familiarise themselves with the regulations for each of the countries in the UK. For further information on waste regulations contact the Environment Agency (England), Natural Resources Wales (Wales), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Scotland) or Department of Environment (Northern Ireland). BASC does not accept responsibility for the guidance given or services provided by any organisation listed in this document.



### Domestic quantities:

Local authorities are responsible for the removal and management of domestic household waste. Due to spent cartridges being a combination of plastic and metal they cannot be recycled through domestic recycling and need to be placed in domestic waste. If you are unsure about the disposal of spent shotgun cartridges in your general waste, please contact your local authority.

### Commercial quantities:

Disposal of large quantities of spent shotgun cartridges are subject to the agricultural waste regulations (further details will be found on your Environment Agency website). Under these regulations, disposal of large quantities of spent shotgun cartridges by burning or burial is illegal. Contact a local waste recycling company to arrange removal, Agri-cycle is the company which specialises in this.

## Duty of care in relation to commercial quantities of cartridges

Duty of care applies to everyone handling trade waste, which includes commercial shoots. If you break the duty you are liable to an unlimited fine.

Duty of care means that you must take all reasonable steps to keep the waste safe, e.g. safe storage of spent cartridges might be in large bins or a skip. Duty of care also means that the waste must be properly disposed of. That means contacting a company authorised to dispose of it properly. Agri-cycle is one of these companies. In addition, waste producers need to sign a waste transfer notice, saying what the waste is and how it is stored.