

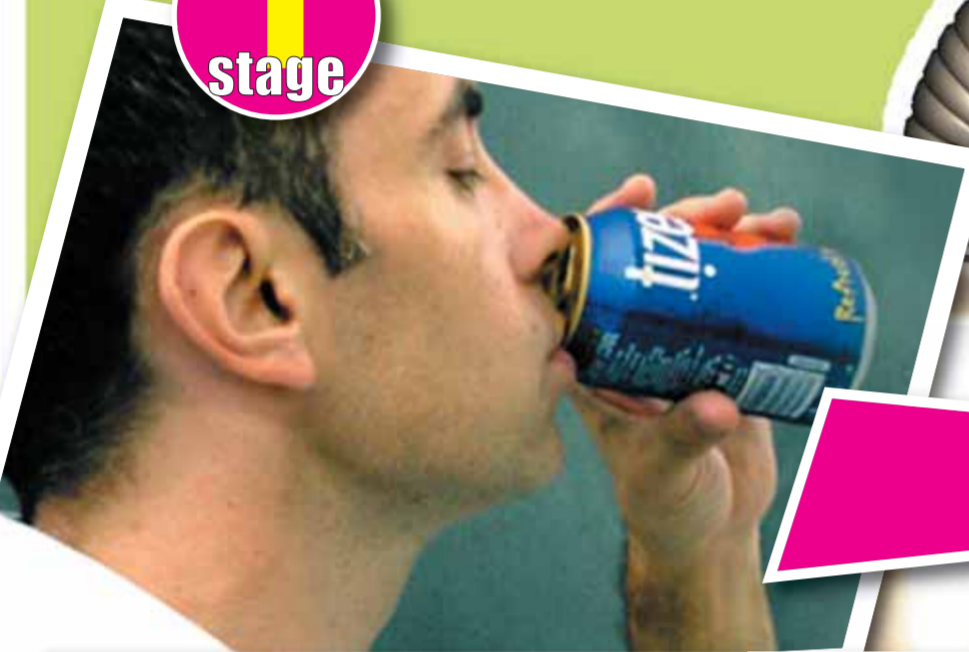
# What happens when aluminium drink cans are recycled

"Hi! I'm L zero-zero-P, but you can call me LOOP!"

"Aluminium drink cans can be recycled into new cans over and over again. We call this the recycling loop"



1 stage



**Consumption** - Aluminium cans are sold everywhere! They are convenient to drink at home or when you're out and about.

2 stage



**Recycling** - empty cans are collected in special boxes and can banks, usually provided by the council or taken to Cash for Cans centres. They are flattened into bales ready to be taken to the recycling plant.

3 stage



**Reprocessing** - At the recycling plant cans are shredded into small pieces, and the decoration is removed. The shreds are melted in a furnace. Then the molten aluminium is poured into moulds and cooled using water, to form a block of solid metal, called an ingot. Each ingot contains 1.5 million recycled aluminium drink cans.

6 stage



**Distribution** - The finished cans are now ready to go back on sale in shops, cafes and vending machines - ready for you to drink, and recycle, ALL OVER AGAIN!

5 stage



**Can Making and Filling** - New cans are made by cutting circles from the aluminium sheet. These are pushed through a series of machines, to form the can 'body' shape. The cans are decorated and dried in a large oven. At the filling plant the cans are filled with a mixture of drink and Carbon dioxide gas, which makes the drink fizzy. Then the end is attached.

4 stage



**Sheet Production** -The ingots are taken to a rolling mill where they flattened into very long, thin sheets.

So now you know what makes the loop go around - you do!  
It's up to all of us to keep the recycling loop going.

For more information and interactive fun visit :  
[www.thinkcans.com](http://www.thinkcans.com)

"Not to recycle your empty cans would be a waste"

