

Used aluminium cans can be recycled to make 'new' aluminium cans in a closed recycling loop.

# The aluminium can recycling loop



here's how it works...

**SELLING** - Cans are distributed to supermarkets, cafés and vending machines ready for you to drink, and recycle again!



...you **RECYCLE** your empty aluminium can: Use a can bank, your council recycling service or cash them in at your local Think Cans centre.

**REPROCESSING** - The cans are shredded into 50p-sized pieces.

Hot air is blown through the shreds to remove decoration. The shreds are melted at 750°C.



The molten metal flows into moulds and is cooled by a curtain of water and the ingot is formed. Each ingot weighs 27 tonnes and contains 1.5 million recycled cans!



At the **ROLLING** mill the ingots are passed through a series of rollers until they are the exact thickness required by the can makers.

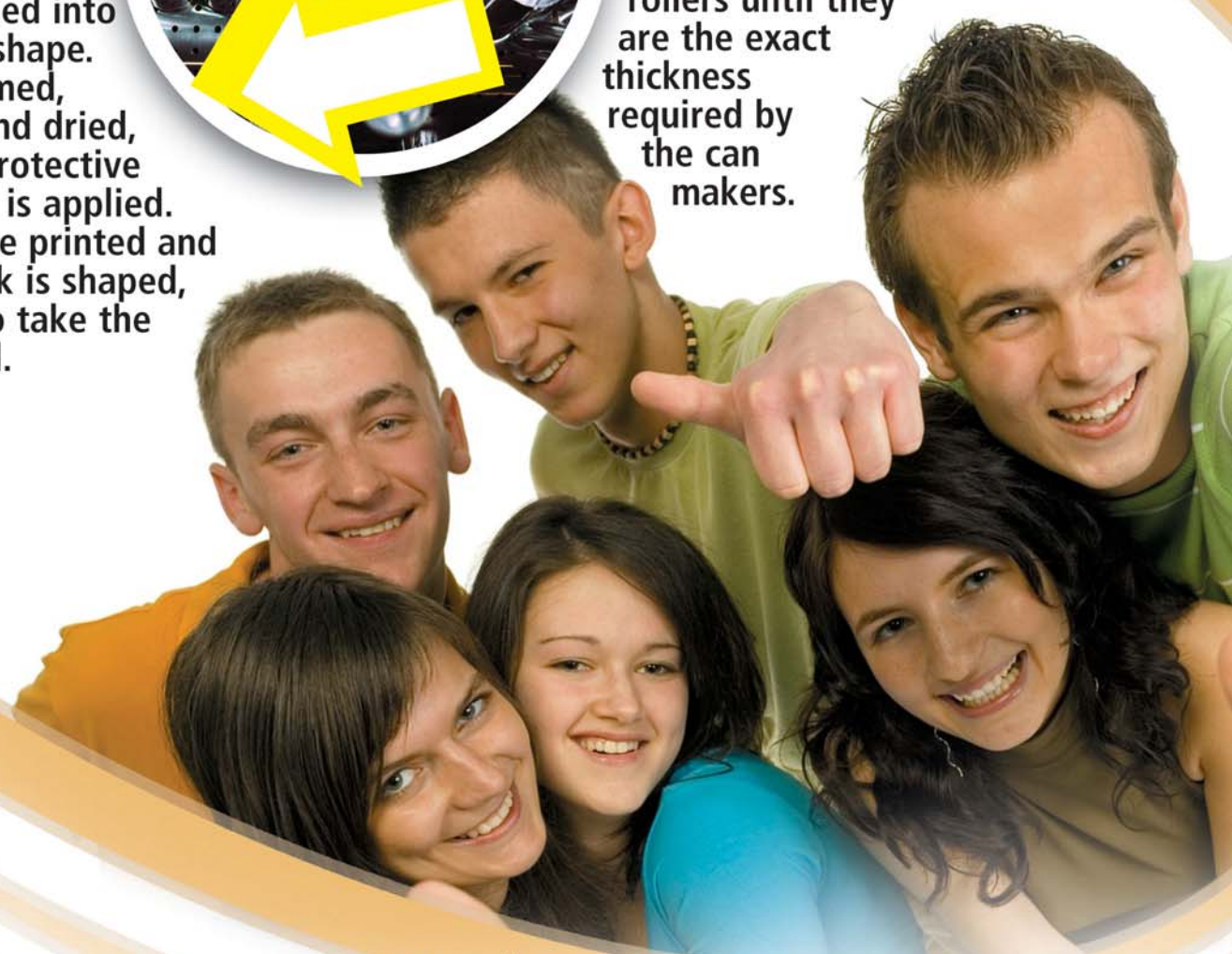


**CAN MAKING** - Cups are 'blanked' from the aluminium sheet and extruded into the can shape.

They are trimmed, washed and dried, then a protective coating is applied. They are printed and the neck is shaped, ready to take the can end.



**FILLING** - The air is extracted and at the same time the can is filled with Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gas and the liquid contents. The can ends are attached mechanically.



For more information visit Novelis on line at: [www.thinkcans.com](http://www.thinkcans.com)

"It's up to us to keep the aluminium can recycling loop going!"