

TUBEX COLLECTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

FREQUENT ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What is the Tubex recycling program?

The Tubex Tree Shelter recycling program is an initiative of Tubex, a brand of Berry Global, which aims to address the issues of plastic waste; the objective of this programme is to offer a simple and effective solution to our stakeholders that allows closing the loop and ensuring a responsible disposal of our products.

The programme is based on the collection of used tree shelters, we will provide dumpy sacks that once full of used tubes will be collected and transferred to a recycling plant, where they will be sorted, washed and afterwards recycled into rPP pellets or rHDPE granulate. Then the conditioned material will be re-used in Tubex products or other Berry business.

Who can take part of this program?

Any Tubex distributor or end-user can be part of the program. To be able to join please contact your sales representative or send an email to sales@tubex.com, and place your order for the required number of dumpy sacks.

When does it start?

The Tubex tree shelter collection program will be available from Autumn 2020.

How does it work?

We tried to build a simple but effective process to collect the used tree shelters, to offer the best solution to Tubex customers and end-users. This process consists in 5 steps:

1. Place your regular tree-shelters order, and set them up as usual. To participate in the Tubex Collection Program you will need dedicated bulky sacks for the collection of the tree shelters. You can now place an order for bulk sacks as well; please contact your sales representative or send an email to sales@tubex.com.
2. Once the tree is established and resistant against extreme weather conditions or mechanical impacts like by deer, remove the tree shelter and fill the dedicated bulk sacks with the used Tubex tree shelters. Once the bag is full please advise us so we can pick it up for you.
3. Tubex will collect the sacks and take them back to the distributor's store. Once we full lorry load of tubes in bulky bags, Tubex will organise transport and collection from distributor, and take the tubes to the recycling plant.
4. Once at the recycling plant, the tubes will be sorted, washed, clean out and afterwards recycled into rPP pellets or rHDPE granulate.
5. Recycled pellets or granulates are going to be re-used in Tubex products or to other Berry Business.

COLLECTION & BULKY SACKS

All Tubex tree shelters can be collected, or are there any product requirements?

All Tubex tree shelters can be added to the collection bags. All that we ask is that you remove the wooden stake. We cannot accept competitor tubes and the sack will be refused if these are found in the dumpy sacks. This is due to the fact that we do not know which polymers are used in these products and they could have very negative impacts at the recycling plant (PVC for example).

Is there a minimum quantity of tree shelters or dumpy sacks for Tubex to collect?

Each sack can hold about 350-400 of Tubex standard tree shelters in 1.2m height; each sack needs to be full for Tubex to collect those.

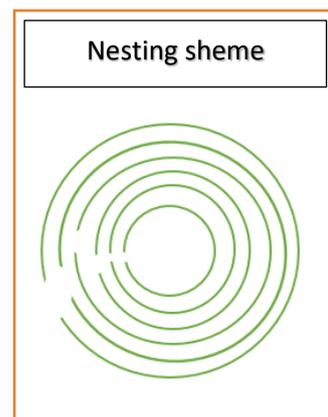
Who will collect the tubes?

Each customer is responsible to collect their tubes and fill the dedicated bulky sacks with them. Once the sacks are full, Tubex will collect and then store them in distributor’s warehouse. Tubex will collect and transport the sacks to the recycling plant.

Tubex is responsible to organise collection and transport from customer’s store to distributor’s warehouse, and afterwards to the recycling plant.

How do I remove the tubes from trees and how do I pack them?

We suggest to use a safety knife like those shown below to prevent the stem from damages. Slit the tube down the join line, open it and remove it from the stem. These can then be placed into the bulk sack open and nested together to fit as many tubes into the sacks as possible.



Tubex will provide the dumpy sacks? How I will get the dumpy sacks? Can I use other sacks?

You should only use dedicated Tubex dumpy sacks, it helps Tubex calculate the quantity of material available for recycling. These sacks come with the collection program logo on it. You can place your order of the required bulky sacks via one of the key distributors signed up to the recycling scheme: British Hardwood, Cheviot, Greentech

What happens to the sack once the tree shelters arrive at the recycling plant?

The tubes are sorted (PP or HDPE), cable ties are removed (PVC), bulky material is then compressed into much tighter bails to ensure we can make the process as efficient as possible. The different raw materials washed, shredded, dried and then processed into rPP pellets or rHDPE granulate (PVC???)

COSTS & BENEFITS

What are the costs of this program?

The current collection cost will be £75/bag which equates to approximately 21p/tube. This is a not for profit service to our customers and end clients, as the scheme expands we anticipate that the cost will reduce.

Do I have any benefit if I take part?

Yes – you save your environment and you support the mindful use of resources to protect what's important: your surroundings, your landscape, your planet.

RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY

How does the recycling of Tubex tree shelters work?

The tree shelters will be recycled at the BPI Heanor plant, a plant from the Berry Global group. For each recycling run we need 24000 kgs of material, which is translated to 191327 Tubex tubes this means 550 dumpy sacks.

DETAILS OF THE PROCESS

What is the percentage of the tree shelter that can be recycled?

The tree shelters are high grade recyclate and even after 8-10 years in the field nearly all of the tree shelter will turn into finished rPP or rHDPE polymer.

What Tubex will do with the recycled material?

Once the used tubes are at the recycling plant, the tubes will be clean up and transformed into PP pellets. Tubex will collect those and use for the fabrication of new tree shelters or send to another Berry business, who will use the PP pellets as raw material for its manufacturing.

The Tubex standard tree shelters already contain up to 30% of recycled polymer and the Tubex netting up to 85%. Our objective is that Tubex Standard tree shelters will be manufactured with 100% recycled content as soon as we have enough availability of recycled PP.