

## **Technical Insight: Recycling and Safe Disposal of Obsolete Piece Part Kits**

Why recycle piece part kits? Recycling conserves natural resources, saves energy (which reduces carbon emission), reduces the need for extraction of new materials, which protects ecosystems and wildlife. Recycling helps to reduce air, water and land pollution. It reduces the amount of waste, which may take many years to decompose.

Recycling process: Metal parts are separated into specific material types, then melted down and rolled, formed or extruded into sheet, bar or billets for reuse. Plastic parts are separated into material types, shredded into flakes or ground down then processed to form pellets that can be used to mold or extrude new products.

By properly sorting and separating different types of materials, recycling facilities can efficiently process waste, contributing to a more sustainable future.

In order to minimise environmental impact, expended, part used or obsolete UJ and UQJ piece part kits should be recycled where possible. Where this is impossible, they should be disposed of responsibly.

Where possible, parts constructed from more than one material should be disassembled. Piece parts should be separated into ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals and plastics for recycling. There may be a financial benefit in separating non-ferrous metals (including aluminium, copper, brass zinc etc.) into separate bins for recycling, because a higher scrap price may be paid. Grey metal Armor components are made from steel (ferrous metal) with a zinc coating and should be recycled as ferrous metals. Plastic components may be recycled where there are facilities for recycling these materials. Where relevant licensing arrangements exist, licenced recyclers should be used.

Where there are no facilities for recycling particular materials, they should be disposed of responsibly. All recycling and disposal should be carried out in accordance with relevant national regulations.

Transit cases may be repurposed, but kit labelling, such as kit ID and weights, should be removed to prevent confusion later. Where they are to be disposed of, the aluminium edging may be removed for non-ferrous metal recycling and the locks and hinges recycled as ferrous metals.

Safe and responsible disposal of waste materials: The foam and boards of disassembled transit cases should be disposed of responsibly. Adhesives and sealants may contain hazardous materials and should be responsibly disposed of in accordance with any instructions on the immediate packaging.

**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for guidance only. Always refer to relevant health and safety guidance. National regulations take precedence in all events.