



RECYCLED VINYL FACT SHEET

Zenith Records are committed to sustainability and adopting eco-considerate processes in every aspect of our manufacturing, whether it be the utilisation of green energy, reticulation of steam condensate, closed loop water cooling, sourcing locally and minimising our carbon footprint in every way we can.

Audio grade vinyl is a “thermo-plastic” in that it can be reheated and re-set and therefore re-used / recycled in the production of new records.

Vinyl trimmings and reject records are crushed and regranulated and, as is common with most vinyl pressing plants, reintroduced at around 20% into our black virgin compound. As this is standard practice, it is generally felt that the extruded PVC flows and behaves more favourably than 100% virgin black vinyl.

While our black and translucent colour vinyl trimmings will blend in with black vinyl mixes, our opaque colours show through the black vinyl at the smallest concentrations, leaving us with perfectly usable but unwanted vinyl material, as most orders are for black or a specific solid colour vinyl.

We have experienced a growing demand for recycled records and have refined our recycling and processing techniques to ensure we can achieve not only some wild colour results, but exceptional audio quality / playback, every bit as good as standard records. Our reclamation process of the recycled vinyl introduces about 10-15% virgin clear material to assist with smooth extrusion when the material is reheated and re-plasticised.

Given that recycled PVC re-introduces an additional stage in vinyl extruding, the result is closer to the vinyl compounds of the 70's, which had an additional mixing stage that new extruding technology has surpassed. In theory, recycled vinyl (if reclaimed correctly) has a lower noise floor than virgin PVC, so it can actually sound better than virgin PVC .

Depending on what colours we've reclaimed from previous jobs, there can be a mixed bag of colours in there. We do have a lot of mixed opaques that will deliver a purple / brown result, but with recycled orders we like to do lots of 100 of different results.

If you choose to use our recycled mixes for your next project, we will send you a current list of available mixes at the time of your test pressing approval.