



HOW TO RECYCLE RIGHT

One of the key things we need to remember when recycling at home, or when out and about, is to ensure we are putting the right materials in the recycling bin. This helps reduce contamination and streamline the recycling process.

1) The usual suspects

The majority of local councils that provide a kerbside recycling service accept newspapers, paper & cardboard, steel & aluminium cans, empty aerosole cans, glass & plastic bottles, rigid plastic containers and milk cartons/containers.

Some of these items may not be accepted in public place recycling bins however, so carefully check the signage on public recycling bins to determine what can be placed in them.

2) If you're not sure, check

Many people are still filling their recycling bins with rubbish that just shouldn't be there. Potentially hazardous or contaminated products such as batteries, nappies and paint cans should never go into the recycling bin. You can check what your council accepts for recycling at kerbside and via drop off points by visiting www.recyclingnearyou.com.au

3) Is that plastic fantastic?

In terms of plastics, the majority of councils accept 'rigid' plastics, generally numbered on the pack with a 1 to 7 symbol. Plastic products coded between 4 to 7 aren't always accepted, so you will need to check with your local council as to what plastics you can recycle, as it can be confusing.

Many people make the mistake of thinking it is okay to put plastic bags and cling wrap in your recycling bin. It's not! Plastic bags and cling wraps can contaminate the recycling process which could result in the recyclable plastic ending up in landfill as well.

4) Clean and dry

To reduce contamination in the recycling process, ensure that the items you recycle are clean and dry. This means no food or drink waste left in bottles, cans and other containers.

5) Flip that lid

Plastic bottle tops should be removed before putting your empty bottle in the recycling bin. This helps ensure there is no liquid or air left inside to disrupt the recycling process.

Steel bottle tops are often too small to go straight in the recycling bin as they can fall through the sorting machines. The best way to recycle them is to collect them in an empty steel can and, when the can is about half full, squeeze the top closed and put the can and tops in the recycling bin. At the recycling station, magnets will pick up the steel can with the tops inside and drop them in a collection basket ready to be melted down and reused.