

How to be a super recycler

The Easy recycling guide



our environment *it's a living thing*

4 tips to be a super recycler

Recycling saves mountains of resources that would otherwise be dumped in landfills.

Australians love to recycle.

In fact we are one of the best recycling nations in the world.

But recycling can be tricky — so here are some tips to make it a little easier.



1. Sort it ALL out!

It's simple. By sorting out ALL the stuff that can be recycled we are doing our best for the environment.

Glass jars & bottles



Aluminium cans



Steel cans



All kinds of paper and cardboard



Plastic bottles



2. Reject plastic bags

Australians use and throw away about 6 billion plastic bags every year! Not one of those bags will break down in your lifetime – or can be accepted for recycling in your kerbside bin.

In fact just one bag in your bin could mean the whole lot goes to waste! So keep them out of recycling.



Hints

- Take your own bag with you when shopping and keep one in the car, your handbag or your briefcase and you'll never be caught short again.

Hint

Wash your recycling at the end of your washing up.



3. Keep it clean!

Recycling isn't garbage – so treat the material you put into the recycling bin just like you'd want to receive it – clean!

Dirty loads mean recyclables can be rejected. They can also attract vermin to your bin and can be very unpleasant for workers at the sorting plant.

Caps off!

Caps are made from a different plastic to the bottles: they can't be recycled.

So take them off and put them in the garbage.



4. Buy it back

Being a good recycler is one thing, but you can be a great recycler by buying things made from recycled material (that's what **closing the loop** means).

Look for recycled content in plastic soft drink, detergent and shampoo containers; cardboard packaging and boxes; aluminium and steel cans; toilet paper; copy paper; plastic pipe, compost bins and other products.



65%

'Recycled content' symbols to look for

The recycling trouble-shooter



Answers to your tricky recycling problems.

Plastic bottles?

Which plastic bottles can you recycle?

The answer is easy: Plastic bottles with or symbols are collected by most Councils. Many also accept and/or .

Check with your council.

Broken glass, crockery, mirrors?



Nope! Only recycle glass bottles and jars.

Broken glass should be placed carefully in your garbage bin.

Pizza boxes?

EMPTY pizza boxes can be recycled, so put them in your paper recycling.



Food?

Any container that still has food in it should not be recycled: rinse it out first, and put the food in the bin or compost.

Paint tins?

Only if they are empty and dry with lids off.



Oil?

Engine oil can be recycled, with drop off facilities available at most waste management centres.

Call the Environment Line for further information on 131 555.



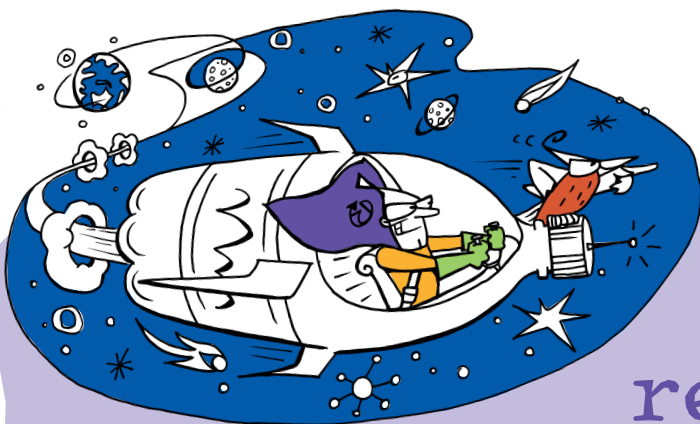
Plastic bags?

Boy you've got a short memory! We've already said that plastic bags are the WORST kind of contamination. Never put them in your recycling bin!



Sharps?

Syringes cannot be recycled, and must be disposed of in special sharps bins. Do not put syringes in your recycling bin.



Going beyond recycling!

Use it again, Sam!

Even with recycling, we are still making too much garbage.

Help the environment even more by reusing things as much as you can before putting in the bin.

Glass bottles, newspapers and jars, cardboard boxes, and plastic drink bottles all have lots of uses around the home.



Switch on to 'smart shopping'

Switch from chemical cleaners to more natural, less wasteful, alternatives like bicarb and vinegar.

Switch to bulk buying. Why buy dozens of tiny containers, when you can buy one big one and save \$\$\$?

Switch from processed foods to fresh fruit and vegies.

They come wrapped by nature in their own natural packaging!



For more information phone the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) on 131 555