

The importance of keeping recycling bins free from contamination

The 'contamination rate' refers to the quantity of items in a recycling bin that are not actually recyclable. Less contamination means materials are easier to sort and more resources can be recovered for recycling.

A high contamination rate may result in an entire truckload of recyclables being rejected and sent to landfill.

As well as being harmful to the environment, continued contamination can end up increasing the cost of recycling to the community.

Did you know?

A single plastic bag can shut down an entire materials recovery facility if it gets caught in its machinery.

It is essential that the correct items are placed in your recycling bin.



About the kerbside recycling assessment

The Cradle Coast Waste Management Group (CCWMG) and the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (NTWMG) will be conducting assessments of bins to determine the amount of general waste that is being incorrectly placed into yellow lidded recycling bins across the north and north west regions of Tasmania.

The assessment will be coupled with an education program showing residents what can and cannot be placed in their recycling bins. Each recycling bin will be checked three times to assess the level of contamination. A sticker will be placed on the bin after each assessment, showing whether or not the resident passed or failed based on the contamination rate found.

Based on the results of previous audits conducted for the Launceston City Council (which showed a decrease in contamination from 8.4% to 2.2% over six weeks) it is expected that the contamination rate will decrease over the span of the assessment.



Did you know?

You may not have your recycling bin collected if the contamination rate of your bin is too high.



For more information about the kerbside recycling assessment visit
www.rethinkwaste.com.au



All you need to know about your kerbside recycling



Do the right thing, only put suitable items in your recycling bin!

Find out more at www.rethinkwaste.com.au

Don't lose your bin by doing the wrong thing.

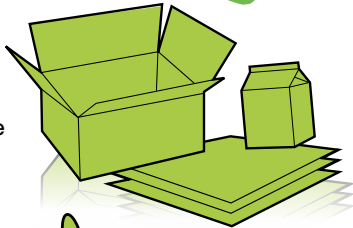


What **CAN** go into your kerbside recycling bin...



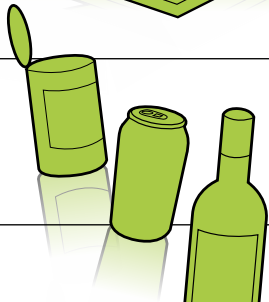
Paper and cardboard

Office paper, cardboard, letters and envelopes, junk mail, telephone books, liquid paperboard (such as milk and custard containers), newspaper, magazines, pamphlets and paper bags.



Metal

Aluminium, steel and tin-plated cans, aluminium foil (clean), paint tins (empty) and aerosol cans.



Glass

Bottles and jars.

Plastic containers

Please empty and remove caps.



Polyethylene Terephthalate

Soft drink, water, sports drink, mouthwash, sauce and salad dressing bottles.



Polyethylene High Density

Milk, water, juice, shampoo, detergent bottles, yoghurt and margarine tubs.



Polyvinyl Chloride

Juice bottles.



Polyethylene Low Density

Squeezable bottles, reusable drink bottles.



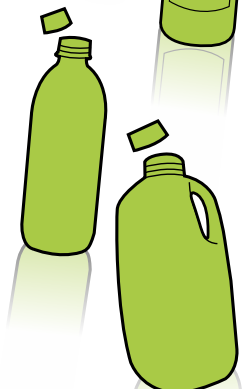
Polypropylene

Syrup bottles, yoghurt, margarine and ice-cream containers.



Other plastic containers

Water cooler bottles.



How to improve your recycling...

Aerosol cans

Ensure cans are completely free of contents.

Aluminium cans

Ensure cans are completely empty.

Glass bottles

Ensure tops are removed and bottles are completely empty.

Metal food cans

Ensure cans are completely free of food scraps.

Plastic bottles

Ensure tops are removed and bottles are completely empty.

Paper, newspaper, cardboard

...are all suitable. Ensure cardboard boxes, such as pizza boxes, are free from food scraps.

DO NOT USE STRING TO TIE BUNDLES OF PAPER OR CARDBOARD TOGETHER.

SHREDDED PAPER IS NOT SUITABLE.



DO NOT bundle any recyclable items together in plastic grocery bags.

Plastic bags are NOT recyclable through kerbside bins! If you want to recycle plastic bags, check with your local supermarket.



What should **NEVER** go into your kerbside recycling bin...



Carpet

Computer equipment and TVs

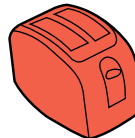
Unwanted computer equipment and TVs can be disposed at your local transfer station.

Coat hangers



Crockery

Electrical appliances



Food scraps

Furniture

Garden waste



Garden hose

Gas bottles



Medical items

Contact your local council to find out how to properly dispose of medical items.



Nappies

Polystyrene

Plastic bags



Paint cans (Full/partially full)

Plastic toys

Saucepans, pots and pans



Shoes, handbags

Shredded paper

Wheel caps