

Recycling



Recycling is a much better alternative to landfilling valuable resources, and much of our recycling is reprocessed right here in NSW. By sorting our recycling correctly, we can save valuable resources from entering landfill, extend the life of our landfills and remake materials into new products, using just a fraction of the resources needed to create them from scratch so these resources can continue to be available to future generations.

In a world with an ever-increasing population, dwindling natural resources and limited landfill space, rethinking how we generate and dispose of our waste, and recycling as much material as possible, is more important than ever.

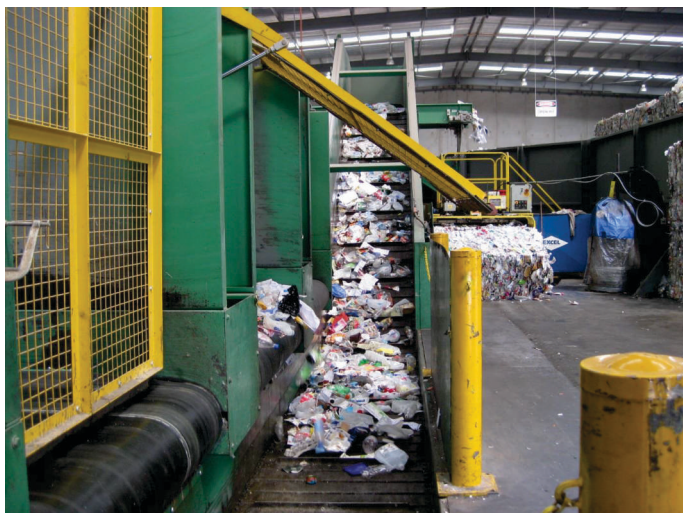


Where does my recycling go?

The contents of Council's yellow lid recycling bins travels to a local Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Smithfield, Sydney. At the MRF, the recycling moves along conveyor belts and is sorted into different material types using sensor technology! For example, huge magnets are used to pull out steel from the recycling.

Once separated by material, each type goes through a different process for recycling.

- Metals such as aluminium and steel are shredded, heated and turned into rolls, to be sold on to local and international metal manufacturers.
- Glass is screened, sorted by colour and crushed into 'cullet'. The glass cullet is sold to glass manufacturers for further processing and used in road base, new bottles and flooring.
- PET and HDPE plastics (such as water/soft drink bottles, shampoo bottles, milk jugs and cleaning products) are remanufactured into a range of bottles and durable plastic products onsite in Smithfield. This is part of the Re+ program, where the recycled plastics plant can produce bottles made up of 15% to 100% recycled content.
- Paper and cardboard are also remanufactured at Visy's paper mill (one of many around the country). The paper and cardboard is processed into pulp, which, in Smithfield, becomes recycled paper of varying thickness. Other paper mills can produce high quality kraft paper or cardboard packaging.



Recycling rules – did you know?

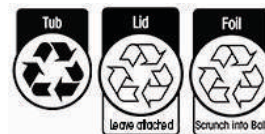
- Recyclable materials do not *have* to be washed out, but you do need to ensure you thoroughly empty liquids and food from bottles, jars, cans and containers. If you wish to go the extra mile to help make the sorting process more pleasant for MRF workers by rinsing out your recyclables, use leftover dishwasher and let dry before they go into the bin
- Lids can be kept on plastic bottles and containers to help them keep their shape, however, they must be empty and dry
- Aluminium foil can be recycled if it is clean and scrunched into the size of a golf ball or larger
- Shredded paper is not able to be recycled, as the thin strands can get caught in machinery and are hard to recover (to be recovered, paper and cardboard must be at least the size of a business card)
- Aerosols are ok! Cans of deodorant, bug spray or air sanitisers are accepted in your recycling bin but they **must be empty**



Frequently asked Questions

I'm not sure if this is recyclable. Should I put it in the recycling bin just in case?

Recycling can be confusing, but if in doubt, check for the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) first. If you are still in doubt, leave it out! Keeping contamination to a minimum is essential, as it is easier to sort, protects MRF workers and improves the quality of the final recycled product.



What is a contaminant?

A contaminant is anything that doesn't belong in the recycling bin. Some of the most common contaminants in the Council area are soft plastics, bagged recycling, and tissues. Soft plastics are a big problem, as they can get caught in machinery at the MRF, which affects productivity at the plant and creates safety risks to MRF workers. Remember to place only recyclable items in the yellow lid bin, and avoid contaminating your bin with hazardous or unaccepted items.

There is a number inside the recycling symbol on this plastic item – does this mean I can recycle it?

The number inside the recycling symbol seen on a lot of plastic packaging is the 'Resin Identification Code (RIC)', and it only tells you what type of plastic that it is made from – not whether it is recyclable via your yellow lid recycling bin. For example, polystyrene is a type 6 plastic and this is frequently marked on polystyrene items, however, it cannot be recycled via the yellow lid recycling bin and must be disposed of in the red lid general waste bin. Check the guide below for a full list of accepted items in the recycling bin.

What items are accepted in my recycling bin?

The following items can be placed in your recycling bin:

- Hard plastic bottles and containers from your kitchen, bathroom and laundry
- Clean paper and cardboard
- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminium such as soft drink cans and clean foil (collect and roll foil into a ball – at least as big as a golf ball)
- Steel/tin cans including pet food cans



The following items can NOT be placed in the recycling bin:

- Soft plastics and plastic bags
- Garbage
- Food or garden waste
- Crockery, glassware, or plastic household items
- Polystyrene (foam)
- Textiles (clothing and shoes)
- Tissues, paper towel and nappies

