

RECYCLE

Don't let contamination make recyclables go to waste!

Placing incorrect items in the recycling bin is called contamination.

Contamination causes problems during the sorting of recyclables, as well as decreasing the ability of the item to be recycled into a new product. In some cases, just a few contaminated bins can ruin an entire truckload of recyclables. This can result in it going to waste.

Top 10 items we need to keep out of our yellow lidded recycle bins:



1) Soft plastic is not fantastic!

Soft plastics wrap and tangle around machinery at the materials recovery facility (MRF). This prevents the machinery from working effectively. The machines then need to be stopped and cleared of the materials wrapped around them. During this time, materials cannot be processed for recycling which wastes time and money.

Plastic bags and other soft plastic wrapping also causes problems by getting caught in the paper and cardboard stream. This causes contamination and reduces the value and recyclability of the paper and cardboard.

Plastic bags and other soft plastics can be placed in the REDcycle bins found at many supermarkets. The soft plastics are recycled and made into outdoor furniture, bollards and board walks for schools and councils.

2) Bagged recycling: We hate to be a nag, but please don't place your recycling in a bag!

Bagged recycling cannot be sorted and often goes to waste. Please place items in the recycle bin loosely so they can be sorted and recycled easily.



3) Nappies. Finding a dirty nappy in the recycling bin doesn't make anyone happy!

It should be obvious however nappies are not recyclable and cause an unpleasant mess! Many of the materials are sorted by hand. It is not pleasant for hand sorters to have to remove nappies (no, they cannot go in the green bin either). Please put nappies in your red or blue landfill bin.

4) No clothes please! No unwanted clothing, bedding, textiles and rags.

Old clothing, bedding and rags wrap and tangle around machinery at the materials recovery facility (MRF). They cannot be recycled through kerbside recycling bins.

Please place these materials in your red or blue landfill bin, or take them to a clothing recycling drop off location.



5) Bricks, tiles and wire are items that we don't desire!

Heavy materials such as bricks, tiles and scrap metal damage trucks and machinery. Wire, coat hangers, hoses and strapping get caught and wrap around machinery, stopping the machines from working and causing damage. Building materials need to be delivered to a transfer station for processing and recycling. If you are completing a home renovation you may consider hiring a skip to collect building materials in.

EastWaste

6) Polystyrene foam packaging: Make your recycling bin a 'NO foam zone!'

Expanded polystyrene foam (aka Styrofoam) includes meat trays, coffee cups and foam packaging and is identified by the number 6 in the plastic identification code on the bottom of the container.

Polystyrene contaminates recyclable materials as it breaks up into many small pieces when placed in the recycling bin. Due to its light weight, it also gets caught up in the paper and cardboard stream, causing contamination.

Polystyrene cannot go in your yellow kerbside recycling bin. Please place these materials in your red or blue landfill bin. *Please make sure that large pieces are broken up and placed inside of a bag so they don't get lodged and stuck inside of your bin.

Alternatively, polystyrene foam used for packaging electronics, furniture, homewares and toys can be taken to Electronics Recycling Australia (301 Grand Junction Road Ottoway) or NAWMA's Edinburgh North Resource Recovery Centre (Gate 3, Bellchambers Road, Edinburgh North) for recycling.



7) Food and liquids: Food and drinks don't go down well in the recycling bin!

Food and liquids cause a mess and can contaminate a whole load of recyclable items, which may mean they end up in landfill. Please make sure containers and bottles are empty before placing them in the recycling bin.

Place unwanted food in the green lidded 'food and garden organics' bin.

8) Ropes, hoses and strapping

These items become entangled with recyclable materials, causing contamination. They also wrap and tangle around sorting machinery, preventing it from working effectively as well as damaging the machinery. The machines then need to be stopped and cleared of the materials wrapped around them.

These materials need to go into your red or blue landfill bin.



9) Broken crockery and glassware: Not all glass is created equal and therefore it's not all recyclable!

Broken crockery and glassware cannot be recycled. This contaminates other recyclable items as it mixes and filters through into other items. Broken ceramics are one of the main contaminants for recycled glass. Broken glass will only break up into smaller and smaller pieces of glass (glass fines). Glass fines are difficult to retrieve for recycling and embed into other recyclable material such as cardboard and paper which causes contamination issues.

Wrap broken items in newspaper and place them in a bag before placing them in your red or blue landfill bin.

10) Electronic waste: Kerbside bins are not the place for e-waste!

Electronic items must be taken to a specialised E-waste recycling centre.

Drop off locations are listed on the East Waste and Which Bin? websites. Please contact your council for your electronic recycling options that they may also offer for items such as mobile phones and batteries.

