



# Which Bin Does It Go In?

## Frequently Asked Questions About Waste Disposal

### Where should I put my food waste?

You can put all your food waste into your **Green Waste** bin.

### What if I am already composting my food and green waste at home?

If you are already composting or worm farming at home, please continue. You can still use the **Green Waste** bin for disposing of food waste that cannot go in your home compost bin, such as bones, meat, fish and seafood shells. You can also use your **Green Waste** bin to dispose of large garden prunings that are too big to compost at home.

### Why shouldn't I put my food waste in my **General Waste** bin?

When you put food waste into your **General Waste** bin, it goes to landfill where it creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Throwing food waste away also wastes valuable resources and nutrients.

Food waste makes up, on average, 27% of the contents of each **General Waste** bin in our region. By putting food waste into your **Green Waste** bin instead, your **General Waste** bin will not fill up as fast.

### What happens to my food waste when I put it in my **Green Waste** bin instead?

Your food waste is mixed up with other types of green waste such as lawn clippings and prunings. It is taken to the Goolwa Waste and Recycling Depot where it is heaped up into a big pile and turned into mulch. During this process, the mulch gets very hot which kills germs and weed seeds. Food waste contains a lot of nutrients, which actually helps the mulching process to work better. We need your food waste to make better mulch and to re-use those nutrients.

The mulch is then sold to gardeners and farmers who use it to improve soil and help retain water, making plants grow better.

### How can I avoid making my bin smell?

Some types of food are more likely to smell, like meat scraps and prawn shells. You can keep these in your freezer, wrapped in newspaper, and put them in your **Green Waste** bin when you put it out for collection.

### What can I put in my **Green Waste** bin?

Remember the motto: “If it grows, in it goes!” Everything on this list can go in your **Green Waste** bin:

- Food scraps and peels
- Cake and bread scraps
- Fruit and vegetables
- Teabags, tea leaves and coffee grounds
- Meat scraps, bones and seafood
- Egg shells and oyster shells
- Cheese and yoghurt
- Leftovers
- Takeaway foods (eg. pizza and chips)
- Shredded paper
- Tissues and paper towels
- Small amounts of cooking oil
- Hair (human and pet hair)
- Pizza boxes that have food stuck to them
- Animal poo (not in a plastic bag!)
- Newspaper-based cat litter (not other types of cat litter)
- Soiled straw or shredded paper animal bedding
- Wood ash (let it cool down first)
- Lawn clippings
- Sawdust
- Leaves, twigs and flowers
- Fallen leaves and fruit
- Prunings
- Branches up to 15 cm diameter
- Weeds (shake off as much soil as you can)

PLEASE REMEMBER:

DO NOT put any plastic bags in your **Green Waste** bin.

DO NOT put nappies in your **Green Waste** bin, even if they say ‘biodegradable’ or ‘compostable’. All nappies must go in the **General Waste** bin.

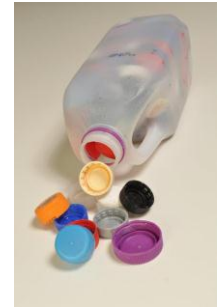
DO NOT put vacuum cleaner dust or cigarette butts or cigarette ash in your **Green Waste** bin. These items must go in the **General Waste** bin.



What can I put in my **Recycling** bin?

Everything on this list can go in your **Recycling** bin:

- Tins and cans
- Metal lids, contained inside a metal can (squash it so they don't fall out)
- Glass bottles and jars (NOT ovenproof glass, drinking glass, window glass or mirrors)
- Plastic bottles and containers (rinsed and lids off)
- Lids from plastic containers and other small plastic items like straws and bread tags, collected together inside a plastic milk bottle
- Cartons eg. long life milk, custard, fruit juice (rinsed)
- Paper, including newspaper and junk mail (NOT tissues or paper towels)
- Egg cartons
- Cardboard boxes
- Clean aluminium foil, scrunched into a fist-sized or larger ball
- Clean shredded paper, contained in a paper bag or cardboard box
- Clean pizza boxes
- Empty, dry paint tins
- Empty aerosol cans (the plastic lids and nozzles can go inside a plastic milk bottle)
- Clean empty plastic plant pots



REMEMBER to rinse your bottles and jars before placing them in the **Recycling** bin. It's OK to leave the labels on your recyclables. Any plastic containers that bounce back to their original shape when gently crushed are suitable for recycling. Soft plastics that do not hold their shape cannot be recycled and need to go in the **General Waste** bin.

DO NOT put your recyclables inside a plastic bag.



### What can I put in my [General Waste bin](#)?

Everything on this list should go in your [General Waste](#) bin:

- Plastic bags, including magazine and newspaper wrapping, cereal bags and soft plastic food packaging
- Foil-type bags
- Plastic wrap
- Plastic bin liners
- Plastic toys
- Polystyrene drinking cups, food trays and packaging
- Bubble wrap
- Nappies, including those labeled 'biodegradable'
- Cat litter (unless it is made of newspaper, which can go in the [Green Waste](#) bin)
- Vacuum dust (in a bag)
- Cigarette butts and ash
- Old clothing, shoes and fabric
- Irrigation and garden hoses
- Garden tools
- Loose plastic lids
- Crockery and drinking glasses (wrap in newspaper)
- Mirrors, oven-proof glass and window glass (wrap in newspaper)
- CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes
- Dried-out paint
- Small quantities of:
  - Dirt, rocks or bricks
  - Car parts
  - Painted or treated timber

If you have a large amount of these items, please take them directly to the Goolwa Waste and Recycling Depot. Remember, your bin can't be picked up if it weighs more than 75 kg.

### Where do I take items that cannot go in any bin?

You can take items that cannot go in any bin to the Goolwa Waste and Recycling Depot, Goolwa-Victor Harbor Road, Goolwa (phone 8555 7260). These items include:

- E-waste (televisions, computers, monitors etc.)
- Oil and coolant
- Building and construction waste (steel, concrete, bricks, timber, builders' rubble)
- Car parts, tyres and car batteries
- Fluorescent tubes and light globes
- Halogen lamps, tubes and bulbs
- Mobile phones
- Printer cartridges
- White goods (fridges, freezers, microwaves)
- Dirt, soil and rocks
- Batteries

# RECYCLING BIN – Some simple tips on how to Recycle Right

Using your kerbside recycling bin is a great way to save resources, water and energy. The key to its success is ensuring that only the right items are placed in the recycling bin.

No nappies  
in the  
RECYCLING BIN.

## TIP:2

**No nappies in the RECYCLING BIN.**

All nappies must go in the **WASTE BIN** only.

No crockery,  
oven-proof glass or  
drinking glasses in the  
RECYCLING BIN.

## TIP:8

**No crockery, oven-proof glass or drinking glasses in the RECYCLING BIN.**

These items should be wrapped and placed in your **WASTE BIN**.

No clothing  
or fabric  
in the  
RECYCLING BIN.

## TIP:10

**No clothing or fabric in the RECYCLING BIN.**

If it's in good condition donate it to a local charity otherwise place in your **WASTE BIN**.

Don't put your  
recyclables in a  
plastic bag.

## TIP:12

**Don't put your recyclables in a plastic bag.**

Place recyclable items loose into the **RECYCLING BIN**.

No polystyrene  
foam in the  
RECYCLING BIN.

## TIP:16

**No polystyrene foam in the RECYCLING BIN.**

Polystyrene foam packaging (including foam meat trays and cups) goes in the **WASTE BIN**.

Pizza boxes  
without food scraps  
can go in the  
RECYCLING BIN.

## TIP:4

**Pizza boxes without food scraps can go in the RECYCLING BIN.**

Food scraps can spoil recyclable materials so ensure all food remnants are removed before recycling. Very greasy pizza boxes can go in the **GREEN BIN**.

Give bottles and  
jars a quick rinse  
before placing in the  
RECYCLING BIN.

## TIP:6

**Give bottles and jars a quick rinse before placing in the RECYCLING BIN.**

To save water, rinse your recyclables after washing the dishes.

Empty, dry  
paint tins can  
go in the  
RECYCLING BIN.

## TIP:14

**Empty, dry paint tins can go in the RECYCLING BIN.**

However if tins contain paint, dispose of at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot, or at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection near you.

## Unsure about which bin a specific waste item should go?

Check out the **RECYCLE RIGHT** online search engine that will provide details specific to your council. Visit [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right) or call **1300 137 118**.

You can also find tips on what to do with **items that cannot be placed in your kerbside bins**, such as oils, e-waste, light globes and household chemicals. Some of these services are free. Visit [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home) or call **1300 137 118**.



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# South Australians are excellent recyclers but to ensure we recycle as much as we can, we need to Recycle Right.

## Does the triangular symbol on plastic containers with numbers mean it's recyclable?



No. The triangle with a number from 1 to 7 is not a recycling symbol but rather a Plastic Identification Code. It only tells manufacturers what type of plastic the item is made from but not if it is recyclable. For more information, Zero Waste SA has a comprehensive guide to plastics displaying the Plastics Identification Code.

[zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right/what-do-the-numbers-and-symbols-on-plastics-mean](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right/what-do-the-numbers-and-symbols-on-plastics-mean)

## So what plastics can be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin?

Rigid plastic bottles and containers that hold their own shape, including plastic soft drink and milk bottles and take-away containers. Just make sure they are rinsed and have the lids removed.

## What happens to all the stuff we put in our recycling bins?

Your recyclables are taken to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) where a combination of people and machinery sort your recyclables ready for reprocessing.

## Why it's important to Recycle Right

Placing incorrect items in your recycling bin contaminates recyclable material, increases recycling costs, puts workers in recycling facilities at risk and can damage recycling machinery.

Contaminants such as plastic bags and foam trays have to be removed from the recyclables and sent to landfill but along the way can create havoc with MRF machinery.

Unfortunately some contaminants such as food and drink remnants can ruin recyclable material, resulting in this material being sent to landfill.

## Recycling helps to save resources, water and energy

Every day large volumes of recyclables are separated and sent to various industries to be reprocessed into new products which reduces our demand for raw materials, energy and water. Just in the past financial year recycling in South Australia has achieved the following savings:

- greenhouse gas savings equivalent to 1.5 million trees being planted, or 225,000 cars removed from the road
- energy savings equivalent to the energy used by 263,000 average households in one year
- water savings equivalent to the water used by 63,300 average Adelaide households in one year, or the water contained in 4,800 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

## Did you know?

- Making a can from recycled materials rather than bauxite saves up to 95% of energy.
- Recycling glass saves 75% of the energy to make glass from raw materials.
- The energy saved by recycling one plastic bottle will power a computer for 25 minutes.

All statistics sourced from fact sheets at [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)

So with a little extra effort we can all ensure we Recycle Right.



- Paper and envelopes
- Newspapers, magazines, catalogues and junk mail
- Cardboard boxes and egg cartons
- Shredded paper (if contained inside a paper bag or box)
- Cartons such as milk, juice and stock cartons
- Pizza boxes without food scraps
- Aluminium and steel cans and tins
- Metal lids (contained in a steel or aluminium can)
- Empty and dry paint tins
- Empty aerosol cans
- Glass bottles and jars (rinsed with lids off)
- Plastic bottles and containers (rinsed with lids off)
- Yoghurt and butter containers (rinsed with lids off)



- Plastic lids from jars and bottles
- Plastic bags and other soft plastics
- Food scraps
- Packaging contaminated with food
- Tissues and paper towel
- Clothing and fabrics
- Polystyrene foam packaging
- Foam trays and cups
- Crockery or drinking glasses
- Mirrors, light globes, oven-proof or window glass
- Car parts
- Toys
- Nappies
- Garden waste or organic material
- CDs, DVDs, video or audio tapes



**RECYCLE RIGHT**



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# GREEN ORGANICS BIN – Some simple tips on how to Recycle Right

Garden organics recycling is a great way to help our environment. The key to its success is ensuring that the right items are placed in the green organics bin.



## TIP:3

### Remember the GREEN BIN rule:

If it didn't grow, it doesn't go.



## TIP:5

### No dirt, rocks or bricks in the GREEN BIN.

Small quantities of these items can go in your **WASTE BIN**. Take larger amounts to your local waste transfer station (tip).



## TIP:7

### No garden hose, tools or plastic plant pots in the GREEN BIN.

Place garden hose or old garden tools in your **WASTE BIN** and clean plastic pots in your **RECYCLING BIN**.



## TIP:9

### Don't put your garden waste in a plastic bag.

Place garden or organic waste directly into your **GREEN BIN**.

## Saving water and supporting food security

Using mulch and compost (often made from the material collected from green organics bins) will help to:

- hold water, reduce leaching loss and improve the soil
- create biologically healthy soils that use less water, less fertiliser and fewer pesticides – mulches can save more than 30% of irrigation water
- lower extreme soil temperatures in summer thereby alleviating plant stress by insulating the soil.

## Reducing climate change

- Around 90% of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills are a result of decomposing organic material which could be diverted. Composting garden materials and food scraps diverts this organic matter from landfill.
- Composting reduces the quantity of waste going to landfill and therefore cuts down on methane, a strong greenhouse gas and contributor to global warming.
- Compost can reduce soil erosion by up to 30% through adding structure and assisting plant growth and vegetation establishment.

## Unsure about which bin a specific waste item should go?

Check out the **RECYCLE RIGHT** online search engine that will provide details specific to your council. Visit [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right) or call **1300 137 118**.

You can also find tips on what to do with **items that cannot be placed in your kerbside bins**, such as oils, e-waste, light globes and household chemicals. Some of these services are free. Visit [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home) or call **1300 137 118**.



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# Green organics bins allow us to dispose of our garden and organic material with little effort. Let's get it right!

## What happens to all the stuff we put in our green bins?

It doesn't just get dumped somewhere – out of sight, out of mind – to decompose on its own. That would be an enormous loss of valuable nutrients. Green organics are professionally processed into compost-based products such as soil conditioners, mulches, garden soils, top dressing soils and potting mixes.

## When the green bin leaves the kerb, it takes about eight weeks to be processed.

After being delivered to a composting facility, the organics are put into oblong-shaped hills called 'windrows'. They're bigger than you would expect – about the size of two double-decker buses end to end. The windrows are aerated using a network of fans or by frequent turning.

Over several weeks, the material is blended, aerated, screened, sorted, ground, de-stoned, tested and graded into various types of mulch and compost before being made available for a wide range of uses from home gardens to councils for reserves and sporting grounds.

## Why it's important to Recycle Right.

Unfortunately when the material comes in to the composting facility, there is often contamination, such as metals, glass and plastics. These materials need to be removed making the process more expensive, timely and difficult.

You can do your bit by making sure that only organic material goes in your GREEN bin.

## Can I put my food scraps in the green bin?

There are a number of councils that allow food scraps to be placed in the green organics bin. These councils include Adelaide, Campbelltown, Charles Sturt, Gawler, Light Regional, Mallala, Mitcham, Playford, Port Adelaide Enfield, Prospect, Salisbury, West Torrens, Wattle Range and Whyalla. For more details about food waste recycling, contact your local council.

Please see the **composting and mulching fact sheet** for information on how to create your own composted mulch at home.



- Vegetable and fruit scraps
- Fallen leaves and fruit
- Tea leaves and tea bags
- Coffee grounds
- Dead flowers
- Soft stems of plants
- Egg shells
- Old newspapers
- Lawn clippings
- Sawdust, and small amounts of wood ash or lime
- Tissues and paper towels
- Compostable corn starch bags



- Plastic plant pots
- Plastic seedling trays
- Plastic bags – not even to keep your clippings bundled together or tidy
- Batteries
- Household chemicals
- Polystyrene or foam packaging
- Nappies
- Metal
- Garden hose
- Garden tools
- Dead pets/animals



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## Painted into a corner with old paint?



Paint is only hazardous when it is wet.  
Dry paint is perfectly safe to dispose  
of in your waste bin.

So don't wait to take paint to a hazardous waste collection  
– dry and harden it and dispose at home.

Harden paint by either:

- leaving the lid off
- adding a paint hardener purchased at a hardware store.

Once hard, tap the hardened tablet of paint out of the tin  
and place in the waste bin. The empty and dry paint tin can  
go in the recycling bin.

## Still unsure about what to do with a specific waste item?

Check out the **RECYCLE RIGHT** online search engine  
[zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right) or call 1300 137 118.



## Drain your engine oil and suddenly you've got a few litres of sticky liquid 'black gold' that seems worthless

The good news is that there are more  
than 85 places across South Australia  
where you can take your used oil.



Bring your oil in a clean, plastic container with a lid. The  
original container is perfect. Avoid using paint cans or other  
metal containers.

## Find your nearest oil recycler

Go to the **RECYCLE RIGHT** online search engine for oil  
at [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right) or call  
1300 137 118.



## In the dark about where to take used light globes?

SA householders can simply drop off  
their end-of life globes at the checkout  
counter of any Mitre 10, Banner  
or True Value hardware  
stores for recycling.



Including fluorescent lamps and tubes, halogen lamps,  
tubes and bulbs and incandescent globes.

\*Excludes commercial globes/quantities. For commercial recyclers of  
fluorescent tubes and lamps visit [cmaecocycle.net](http://cmaecocycle.net) or [www.toxfree.com.au](http://www.toxfree.com.au)

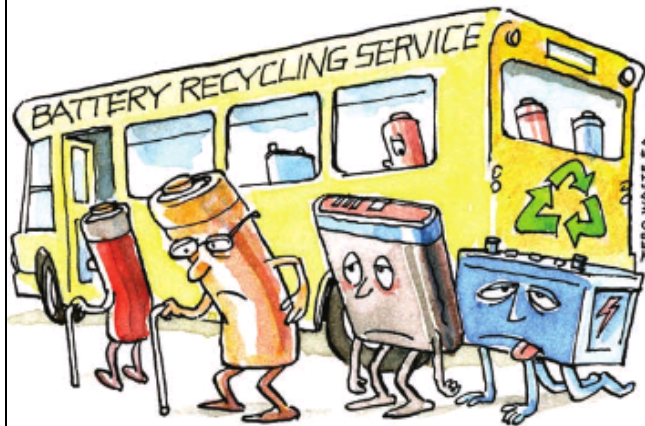
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## Flat out finding where to put your used batteries?



Many batteries are made from heavy metals and harmful elements such as nickel, cadmium, lead and mercury. So don't place these in any bin. There is good news though – many can be recycled!

### Find your nearest battery recycler

Go to the **RECYCLE RIGHT** online search engine at [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/at-home/recycle-right) or call 1300 137 118.

## Old fertilisers are not hazardous waste but they are a resource



Fertilisers can be passed on for use by neighbours, friends, family or to a local community garden.

## Shredding personal documents doesn't mean the paper has to go to waste.



### It can still be recycled or composted!

#### Use the yellow recycling bin:

Contain shredded paper in a paper product such as a paper bag, cardboard box or just wrapped in newspaper.

This will ensure the paper does not blow around the streets or create problems at the recycling facility.

#### Use the green organics bin:

Simply place loose with your organics.

The moisture from the other organics will prevent it from blowing around. Your paper will be composted and returned to the earth.

### Still unsure about what to do with a specific waste item?

Check out the **RECYCLE RIGHT** online search engine [zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right](http://zerowaste.sa.gov.au/recycle-right) or call 1300 137 118.

