



# Priority actions for waste and recycling...

## Everyday things you can do

### Avoid generating waste in the first place

- Have a close look at your unwanted items – could any of these have been avoided by buying differently in the first place?
- Shop wisely – buy less and buy only what you need. Select products made from recycled materials and products that have minimal packaging.
- Reject plastic bags – take your own bag with you when shopping.
- Work out how you can save on paper and toner at work or in the home office. Check machine settings, print double-sided, cut down on your printouts and reuse scrap paper.
- If you're purchasing equipment, choose products that use recycled-content. For example, choose a printer that uses recycled paper and recycled toner cartridges.
- Building or renovating? Consider using second-hand or recycled building materials.
- If you make or deliver products, can you cut down on their packaging? Tell your customers about your commitment to reducing waste.

### Make sure waste is reused and recycled

- Look for ways to reuse, renovate or recycle household goods. Donate to charity, take them to your local second-hand shop, get together with your neighbours and have a garage sale, or advertise unwanted items on community noticeboards.
- Compost your food and garden waste – anything organic except meat, fish bones and animal droppings can be composted. Mulch or chip prunings for reuse in your garden. Set up a worm farm and produce your own organic fertiliser.
- Separate your recyclables and use the kerbside recycling system. Sort everything carefully and remove any contaminants.
- Look for the recyclable symbol on plastic containers and check the number – most councils collect numbers 1, 2 and 3, and some also accept 4, 5, 6 and 7. Contact your local council for more information.
- Never put plastic bags, light globes, coat hangers, broken glass, crockery, bottle lids or cigarette butts into recycling bins – the whole bin will be rejected.
- Never put chemicals in a recycling bin – they could harm people who sort these materials, contaminate the recyclable materials, or end up in landfill, which can harm the environment.
- Take used motor oils, fuels and fluids to a participating service station for recycling.





## Priority actions for waste and recycling... (cont'd)

- Take unwanted medicines to any pharmacy for free and safe disposal.
- Send ink or toner cartridges back to the supplier or manufacturer, or use a Cartridges 4 Planet Ark collection outlet. There are a number of retail outlets where you can take your cartridges including Australia Post, Harvey Norman, Tandy, Dick Smith or Officeworks.
- Recycle old mobile phones and their batteries through a retail outlet or a program such as MobileMuster.
- Donate unwanted paint to a community group or someone who can use it. Give unwanted pool chemicals to a friend or neighbour.
- Ask suppliers to take back used packaging and recycle it.
- If you don't already have one, set up a recycling program at work. Seek support from your work colleagues and keep adding to what you can reuse or recycle.
- Don't forget about recycling drink cans or bottles whenever you're out. Just because you're not at home you can still find a public recycling bin or take them home to your household recycling bins.

### **For waste you can't use or recycle – take care with disposal**

- Take unwanted household chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, hobby chemicals or poisons to a free Household Chemical Collection event in your local area. Contact your council for information about the next CleanOut day.
- Don't dump unwanted household items outside your home, in bushland or on the street. This is illegal and you'll be liable for a fine of \$750. Call your local council to discuss how to dispose of these items, and find out about council clean-up days or special collection services.
- If you're a smoker bin your butts or carry a pocket ashtray.
- Remember all streets lead to Australia's largest swimming pool – stormwater drains flow to rivers, harbours and oceans – the drain is just for rain!
- When you're out and about use public rubbish bins or take your rubbish home with you.
- Join in the next Clean up Australia Day, Business Clean Up Day or Schools' Clean Up Day. Join the hundreds of thousands of volunteers across Australia to remove rubbish.

## How can I find out more?

Visit [www.livingthing.net.au](http://www.livingthing.net.au)

