

Top ten recycling tips

- 1 Identifying recyclable items around the house is easy if you remember that if it is made from **paper, cardboard, firm plastic, metal (aluminium and steel) or glass**, it can be put in your recycling bin at home.
- 2 Recycling symbols are not always the best way to decide if something can go in your recycling bin at home. Remember if it's made from the five materials listed above, it can go into your recycling bin. Other things, like plastic bags, can only be recycled through other dedicated recycling services. For example, plastic bags can be recycled via some supermarkets and should not be put in your recycling bin at home.
- 3 You can safely dispose of all empty aerosol cans and containers that previously held household chemicals in your recycling bin.
- 4 Do your best to decide if an item can be recycled, but trust the technology at the recycling facility to remove non-recyclables if you get it wrong.
- 5 Make collecting your recyclables at home easier by placing a bin for recyclables in your kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Sorting your recyclables at the point of disposal will help you to recycle more.



- 6 Containers do not need to be rinsed before being placed in your recycling bin. Although rinsing does reduce bin odours, not doing this will not ruin the whole load of recycling or stop the individual item from being recycled.
- 7 Do not put your recyclables in plastic bags. Instead place the items loose in your recycling bin. Plastic bags cannot be opened at the recycling facility for safety reasons, and all the goods inside are sent to landfill.
- 8 Don't forget that every little bit counts. Even making the effort to recycle one or two extra items each week, such as the junk mail from the letterbox or the empty air freshener can from the bathroom, helps to conserve precious resources from going to landfill.
- 9 Remove the lids from containers and bottles before you place them in the recycling bin. This will save space in your bin and ensure that each material type is recycled.
- 10 Only glass jars and bottles are suitable for recycling. Drinking glasses, ceramics and heat-proof glass (e.g. Pyrex) melt at a different temperature and cannot be recycled. Put these items in your rubbish bin at home.

Recycling myths

MYTH 1 – If I put just one wrong thing in my recycling bin, I'll spoil a whole truck load of recycling.

FALSE

Once collected, your recyclables are taken to Visy's Material Recovery Facility to be sorted into separate streams of paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, and metal (aluminium and steel). Contaminants or non-recyclable items are detected by several manual and mechanical sorters and are removed to landfill. See page 19 for more details.

MYTH 2 – It doesn't matter what I put in my recycling bin because it all ends up in landfill.

FALSE

Your recycling is collected by a dedicated fleet of recycling trucks, and taken to Visy's Material Recovery Facility at Gibson Island. In 2015-16, Council collected 89,645 tonnes of paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and metals from Brisbane households, which was then sorted, baled, and prepared for reprocessing into new products and packaging.

Your rubbish is collected by a different fleet of trucks that are dedicated to collecting general waste only, which is taken to Council facilities before being disposed of in landfill.

MYTH 3 – Brisbane has ample space to bury our waste, so I don't need to recycle.

FALSE

Brisbane's current landfill site is nearing capacity, and any future landfill sites and alternative waste technologies will require land that is no longer available close to our city.

This means more fuel and resources will be required to transport waste, but more importantly, by burying our waste, we are failing to address the real need to manage our natural resources in a more sustainable way.

Keeping materials in a loop of constant use through recycling maximises the resources and materials already in use while conserving untouched resources for future generations. Recycling is also a way of battling other environmental issues as it helps to conserve water and natural habitats, create local jobs and reduce energy use, greenhouse emissions and our reliance on landfills.

MYTH 4 – The triangular symbol is a recycling symbol.

TRUE



The triangular symbol made from arrows is known as the Mobius loop. It indicates that a product is recyclable, but it is not reliably found on all recyclable items.

Rather than relying on the symbol, a better way of identifying whether an item is recyclable is to ask yourself what it is made from. If it is made from paper, cardboard, firm plastic, metal (aluminium and steel) or glass, it can be recycled in Council's recycling bins. See pages 5-11 for more details.

MYTH 5 – Anything that is recyclable can go in my household recycling bin.

FALSE

Council recycling bins only accept packaging items made from paper, cardboard, plastic, steel, aluminium and glass.

Many other household items, such as electronic waste, printer cartridges, mobile phones, plastic bags, tyres, clothes and scrap metal, can be recycled but must be taken to a specialist collection service in your community. Visit www.recyclingnearyou.com.au for more details.

Council's resource recovery centres also offer a recycling service for a range of materials. See pages 24-27 for more details.

MYTH 6 – Plastic bags can be recycled at many local supermarkets but I can't put them in my recycling bin at home.

TRUE

Plastic bags can only be recycled through dedicated plastic bag recycling collections at local supermarkets. They are not recoverable through Council's household recycling service, as they damage and jam the machines at the recycling facility. Items for recycling should be placed loosely in your recycling bin and not in plastic bags. Plastic bags, cling wrap, bubble wrap and nappies are considered contaminants in the recycling process and should be placed in the general waste bin. See page 16-17 for more details.

MYTH 7 – I have to wash and clean out every container before I put it in my recycling bin.

FALSE

Rinsing helps to minimise odours in your bin and in the recycling process. However, as long as your containers are generally empty of food and liquid there is no need to rinse them. They can be put straight into your recycling bin.

