

# What are we throwing away?

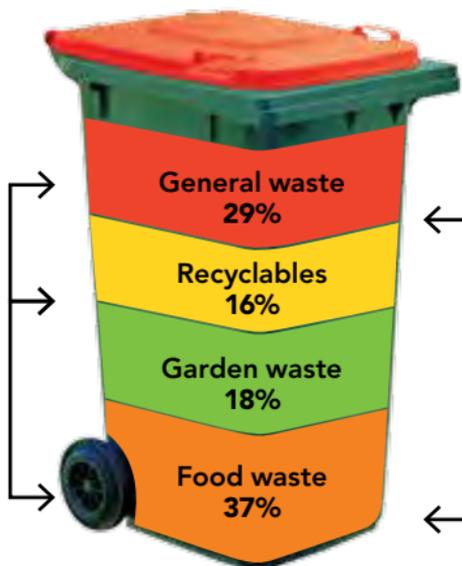
This picture shows what the average Brisbane household places in their rubbish bin each week identified in Council's waste characterisation survey.

Everything placed in your household rubbish bin is sent to landfill.

## As you can see:

More than **16%** of the bin contains items that could have been put in the household recycling bin.

About **55%** of the bin contains garden waste and/or kitchen scraps that could have been put in a compost bin or worm farm.



More than **71%** of the contents in your household rubbish bin could have been kept out of landfill.

You can help reduce what is sent to landfill by finding out more about what can be recycled, and by putting the right items in the right bin.

## Rethink your rubbish



# What can be put in your recycling bin?

## Paper



Most types of paper can be recycled with the exception of a few items which are listed below.



Newspaper, junk mail, brochures, office paper, gift wrapping paper, used note books, packaging paper, glossy paper and magazines, envelopes (including window envelopes), phone books, greeting cards, coloured paper, paper bags and scrap paper.



Padded envelopes, photographs, thermal fax paper, wax-coated paper, tissues, toilet paper, baking paper and nappies.



### Why can't we recycle tissues or nappies?

Not only is it unhygienic for items containing bodily fluids to be processed alongside other recyclables, the paper fibres in these items are too short to recycle making it too difficult to recover any worthwhile material.



## Cardboard

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Cardboard boxes, milk/juice cartons (e.g. long-life milk and fruit juice cartons/boxes), egg cartons, toy boxes, pizza and cereal boxes, detergent boxes, tissue boxes and cardboard coffee cups.

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Wax-coated cardboard boxes e.g. fruit boxes.

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**Why can't a wax-coated cardboard box be recycled?**

Because the wax covering the box makes it too difficult to recover paper fibres.

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## Plastic

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Plastic items are sorted using an optical sorting machine which groups similar plastic types together and detects and removes non-recyclable plastics.

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All firm plastic containers such as soft drink bottles, takeaway containers, margarine containers, milk and juice bottles, yoghurt tubs, biscuit and sushi trays, detergent and shampoo bottles and disposable plates and cups.

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All soft plastics such as plastic bags, plastic film or cling wrap, chip packets, toothpaste tubes, bubble wrap, styrofoam and polystyrene products, straws and disposable nappies. Hard plastics that are not containers such as toys or toothbrushes cannot be recycled.

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### Why can't we recycle soft plastics?

While plastic bags and other soft plastic packaging is sometimes made from recyclable content, their light-weight nature often results in them getting caught around moving machine parts, causing machines to jam. It's best to dispose of soft plastics in your general waste bin, or you can return them to the major supermarkets where they are collected and recycled using specialist technology.

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## Metal (aluminium and steel)

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All aluminium and steel packaging can be recycled including aerosol cans, paint tins (empty and dry), aluminium foil and pie trays.

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Vegetable and food cans, pet food cans, soft drink cans, pie trays, aerosol cans, aluminium foil and paint tins (empty and dry).

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Batteries, gas bottles, wire, scrap iron or tin, cutlery and white goods.

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**What should I do with other metal items that cannot be recycled through the household recycling bin?**

Other household items including batteries, gas bottles, scrap metal or white goods are collected for recycling at Council resource recovery centres. See page 26 for details.

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## Glass

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Only glass used for packaging (e.g. bottles and jars) is collected for recycling through the household recycling bin. Other glass items are manufactured differently which makes them more prone to shattering and less suitable for recycling.

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All clear, green and brown bottles and jars, including jam jars, food jars, sauce bottles, beverage bottles, perfume and vitamin bottles.

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Drinking glasses, ceramics, window glass, light bulbs, mirror or window glass, heat-proof glass and cookware such as Pyrex.

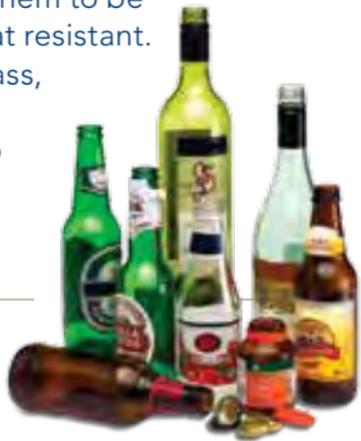
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### Why can't I recycle these items?

The glass used for bottles and jars is heavy duty and durable, while other glass types are designed for specific uses which require them to be more fragile, transparent or heat resistant. When mixed with recyclable glass, other glass types weaken the new glass products. It is best to dispose of all non-packaging related glass in your general waste bin.

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# What CANNOT go in my recycling bin?

Recycling bins are provided to residents for the recycling of **paper, cardboard, firm plastic, metal (aluminium and steel) and glass** packaging materials.

There are many other items that can be recycled from our homes, but these should not be placed in your recycling bin. These items include computers, televisions, white goods, batteries, light bulbs and lots more. See page 24 for other recycling options.

**Items that SHOULD NOT be placed in the recycling bin include:**

- ✗ plastic bags
- ✗ food waste
- ✗ garden waste
- ✗ disposable nappies
- ✗ clothes.



## Plastic bags

Soft plastics, such as plastic bags, garbage bags and cling wrap are light-weight and frequently jam the sorting machines by becoming tangled around rotating machinery parts. Soft plastics can be recycled through specialised collection services located at major supermarkets and should not go in your household recycling bin.

Place your recyclables in your recycling bin loose rather than putting them in plastic bags.

## Food waste

Food waste should not go in the recycling bin. Empty your containers of food and liquids before you recycle them. A small amount of residue is acceptable and will not ruin the whole load of recycling. Rinsing is not required, although it helps to reduce odour in your recycling bin.

## Other contaminants

You can safely dispose of containers that previously held household chemicals in your recycling bin, as long as they are empty and dry.

Used containers of oil, tins of paint, car batteries and gas bottles cannot be put in your recycling bin, but can be disposed of at one of Council's resource recovery centres every day of the year. See page 24 for details.

Other hazardous waste items, such as pool chemicals, pesticides, and acids can be safely disposed of on one of Council's free hazardous waste drop-off days. For more information visit **[www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au)** or phone Council on **(07) 3403 8888**.