



thank you for
recycling



Your waste... it's not just a load of rubbish!

Did you know that on average each of us in the Rockhampton Region creates over **400kg** of household rubbish each year?

We can all do our part to help. We can all do the right thing and use the right bin to help to minimise the amount we send to landfill.

We can all recycle right!

This booklet aims to help you when sorting items into your yellow lid recycling bin. Every can, piece of paper, cardboard box, moulded plastic, and glass bottle can make a difference.

By recycling right we can save natural resources from landfill, wipe out contamination (items not accepted in yellow lid recycling bins) and keep enjoying our beautiful environment.

Here in the Rockhampton Region, our household wheelie bins collections and Waste Management Facilities are looked after by Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling.

With your help to Sort it, Clean it, and Crush it, we can all be Recycling Heroes!



Rockhampton
Regional Waste & Recycling



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- ✓ paper and cardboard
- ✓ glass bottles and jars
- ✓ aluminium & steel cans
(including aerosols)
- ✓ milk and juice cartons
- ✓ plastic containers



paper & cardboard

Recycling just 1 tonne of paper and cardboard saves 30,000 litres of water!

In the Rockhampton Region we recycle nearly 4,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard each year. That saves enough water to fill 48 Olympic sized swimming pools!

Sort it

Sorting your paper and cardboard materials is simple, once you know what you can put in your household recycling bin, some of these are:

- Cardboard (except waxed)
- Junk Mail
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Paper
- Phone Books
- Toilet paper rolls
- Wrapping paper



Clean it

Cleaning your paper and cardboard materials is just a matter of seeing if they are contaminated (have food or oil attached) or not.

If your paper and cardboard materials are contaminated then they cannot be recycled as the contaminants seep into them and make them unable to be made into new products.

This means even though pizza boxes are made from cardboard (which is recyclable) the part that has food and grease on it, cannot be recycled.

Crush it

Save space in your household recycling bin, by crushing away empty space. Flatten all cardboard boxes and squash down all paper items as much as you can to give you all that some extra space you may not have had.



What does it get turned into?

Paper can be recycled into items such as tissue paper, newspapers, magazines, greeting cards, gift wrap, and writing paper. Cardboard is usually recycled into new cardboard, cereal and food packaging boxes, and other things like puzzles or egg cartons.

aluminium & steel



Recycling just 1 aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for 3 hours!

We recycle about 500 tonnes of aluminium each year in the Rockhampton Region. That's enough aluminium for every person in the Region to power a television for around 7 hours every week!

Sort it

Sorting your aluminium and steel recyclables is easy, if it comes in a can or a tin, it's recyclable. Some of these are:

Aluminium

- Softdrink cans
- Beer cans

Steel

- Coffee cans
- Food cans
- Pet food tins
- Aerosol containers



Clean it

Cleaning your aluminium and steel materials is just a matter of rinsing out all cans, containers, and tins to remove any leftover food or drink from inside them.

Remember to remove all lids, caps, corks, or straws before putting them in your household recycling bin.

Crush it

Crush aluminium and steel materials to use up all that empty space in your household recycling bin.



What does it get turned into?

Aluminium cans are mostly recycled into new cans but can also be one of the products used to make pie plates and food trays. Steel cans and containers are generally recycled back into steel food cans, paint tins or items like aerosols. Steel items recycled can also be in the manufacturing of steel for items like a refrigerator.

plastic

Recycling just 1 plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a CFL bulb for 30 hours!

Over 800 tonnes of plastic is recycled each year in the Rockhampton Region. That's enough for every person in our Region to keep a light on for 292 days of the year!

Sort it

If you can remember the **'fantastic plastic seven'** sorting your plastics is easy. Just check the bottom of the container for a symbol that looks like this.



Some of these will include:

- Detergent containers
- Ice cream containers & lids
- Juice/Milk bottles
- Margarine tubs
- Sauce bottles
- Shampoo/Conditioner containers
- Softdrink bottles
- Yoghurt containers

If you cannot find the recycling symbol on the plastic item, then it generally is not recyclable.



Clean it

Rinse out all your plastic containers and bottles to remove any leftover food or drink from inside them before putting them in your household recycling bin, otherwise they cannot be recycled.

Remember to remove all lids, caps, corks, and straws before putting your plastics into your household recycling bin.

Important! Recyclable items should NOT be placed in plastic bags. Items in plastic bags cannot be sorted at the Material Recovery Centre. Plus plastic bags jam up the machinery!

Crush it

If you're running out of room in your recycling bin, crush some of your larger containers, such as 2 litre milk bottles to help save space.



What does it get turned into?

Plastic milk bottles are usually recycled into new non food containers. Soft drink bottles can be made into carpet, clothing or new food containers. Plastics can also be recycled into new containers, pallets, plastic tables and chairs, decking material, drain pipes and the list goes on.

glass

Recycling just 1 glass bottle saves enough energy to power a washing machine for 10 minutes!

In our Region we recycle almost 1000 tonnes of glass each year. That's enough glass to power a washing machine for each household in our Region for 2.5 hours a week!

Sort it

Most glass containers are recyclable, just remember not to dispose of your drinking glasses, or anything containing Pyrex.

Some items that are easy to recycle include:

- Jars (e.g. jam)
- Alcohol bottles such as wine, spirits, and beer (brown, green and white)

Clean it

Clean your glass materials by rinsing out any leftover food or drink from inside them before placing them in your household recycling bin.

Remember to remove lids, caps, corks, and straws because these are different types of recyclables and need to be separated from each other.



Don't Crush it

Remember don't crush your glass materials because it is dangerous and there is no need to.

Your glass materials will be crushed during processing and they're not taking up much room anyway.



What does it get turned into?

Glass can be crushed and used locally as bedding sand for infrastructure projects, like laying pipes.

Where does your recycling go?

So you know how to sort it, clean it, and crush it to recycle right using your yellow lid bin!
... Now where does your recycling go?

The Material Recovery Facility of course!

The recycling truck empties your yellow lid bins each fortnight and take your recyclables to the Material Recovery Facility located right here in Parkhurst, Rockhampton!

At the Material Recovery Facility special magnets, light sensors and conveyor belts are used to sort your recycling into the different types of products - such as glass, plastics, paper and cans. In order for these products to be sorted though, each item needs to be loose. This is why you put your recyclables loose in your recycling bin, rather than in plastic bags. Plus plastic bags jam up the machinery!



Did you know?

The Material Recovery Facility is located in Rockhampton and sorts and processes recyclables from yellow lid wheelie bins from the Rockhampton Region. It also looks after the recyclables collected from households throughout most of Central Queensland!

How to wipe out contamination!

All heroes have an enemy and recycling's arch enemy is 'contamination'. Grease, food scraps, and putting the wrong items in yellow lid bins like plastic bags, contamination is always a threat to clean recyclable items.

When contamination succeeds, a load of recyclables can be deemed too contaminated and have to be sent to the landfill. This is a sad end for a recyclable item and a waste of valuable natural resources.

We can win! Here are some top tips from our Recycling Heroes to wipe out contamination for good!

X Sort it! Styrofoam = Contamination
Styrofoam is NOT accepted in yellow lid recycling wheelie bins.

A tip from Recycling Hero Mr Fantastic Plastic 7:
Don't be tricked by that recycling symbol on styrofoam and polystyrene products - it is not accepted in yellow lid recycling bins. Foam is troublesome to deal with as it is very light, flakes easily into tiny fragments, and when wind bourn can travel long distances into the environment as litter.

X Shut down Contamination's pizza party!
Greasy pizza boxes are NOT accepted in yellow lid recycling wheelie bins.

A word from Recycling Hero Professor Paper:
The part of the pizza box with food or grease on it cannot be recycled as the contaminants seep into the cardboard and make them unable to be made into new products. This means that even though pizza boxes are made from cardboard which is recyclable, they are usually too contaminated to put in your recycling bin.

X Wipe out plastic bag Contamination!
Plastic bags are NOT accepted in yellow lid recycling wheelie bins.

A tip from Recycling Hero Mr Fantastic Plastic 7:
Recyclable items need to be placed loose into the recycling bin, NOT contained in a plastic bag. Items in plastic bags cannot be sorted out, plus plastic bags jam up the machinery at the Material Recovery Facility.

X Contamination lurks in the form of lids!
Lids are NOT accepted in yellow lid recycling wheelie bins.

A tip from Recycling Hero Mr Fantastic Plastic 7:
Rinse out all your plastic containers and bottles to remove any leftover food or drink from inside. Plastic bottle tops are not accepted in recycling bins and the liquid and air in the bottle causes problems at the Material Recovery Facility. So remember to remove all liquid, lids, caps and straws before putting your plastic containers with a recycling symbol (with numbers 1-7) in the recycling bin.

X Clean it! Don't let food scraps be Contamination in your recycling bin.
Food scraps are NOT accepted in yellow lid recycling wheelie bins.

A tip from Recycling Hero Steel:
Food scraps contaminate recyclable items. Any food that remains in a recyclable item should be removed or rinsed off. Put food scraps in a compost bin, compost pile, or put into your general waste bin.

X See through Contamination's disguises!
Pyrex and crockery products are NOT accepted in yellow lid recycling wheelie bins.

A tip from Recycling Hero Glass Girl:
Pyrex products are glass but they have been chemically treated to withstand high temperatures which changes the composition of the glass. Different type of glass products melt at different temperatures and fracture differently through the crushing process. If pyrex products are mixed with standard food and drink glass containers it can cause weakened, defective recycled glass products.





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Waste & Recycling Related Questions

Can school or community groups visit the Recycling MRF?

To learn about recycling right, schools within the Rockhampton Region can request a classroom visit from our very own Recycling Hero! The Recycling Hero encourages students to 'sort it, clean it, crush it' to recycle right and tell them what happens to our recycling at the Material Recovery Facility. A visit to the Material Recovery Facility with our Recycling Hero can be requested if transport to and from the facility is arranged by the school or community group.

For more information or find the request form visit www.rrc.qld.gov.au

When will the container deposit scheme start in Queensland?

The Queensland Container Refund Scheme will start on 1 July 2018. You will be able to start getting a 10 cent refund for eligible containers from this date. The Queensland Government is introducing a container refund scheme for Queensland. Under the scheme, empty eligible drink containers with an approved refund mark can be returned to a container refund point for a 10 cent refund.

For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/containerrefund

When will the lightweight plastic bag ban start in Queensland?

From 1 July 2018, lightweight plastic shopping bags will be banned in Queensland. Plastic shopping bags less than 35 microns in thickness (a lightweight plastic shopping bag) will no longer be able to be supplied to the customer—either sold or given away. Degradable and biodegradable lightweight plastic shopping bags are included in the ban as these can still harm wildlife if littered.

For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/plasticbagban

Rockhampton Regional Council's Waste Reduction & Recycling Plan

Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling strives to achieve clear, set targets for waste reduction and diversion for our Region through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2015-2026. Over the lifetime of this plan, Council will achieve an overall reduction in waste to landfill of 15%. View the Plan on Council's website.

Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling is a commercial business unit of Rockhampton Regional Council and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of waste management facilities and bin collection services throughout the Rockhampton Region.

For enquiries please contact:

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