

Factsheet



Waste Avoidance



Small changes in your household can make a big difference when it comes to protecting the environment. Here are some simple tips on how you can reduce, reuse and recycle your waste.

REDUCE

By reducing your waste you can save raw materials, natural resources and some money too. This will also prevent many of these resources being wasted in landfill. When you shop smart you can drastically reduce the waste of your household. Here's how:

- Buy bulk items with minimal packaging and avoid individually wrapped items
- Buy products in reusable, refillable or recyclable packaging
- Avoid single use items such as plastic bags, water bottles, takeaway containers, disposable coffee cups and utensils
- Buy quality products that are long lasting, such as clothes, kitchen items and household products
- Mend broken appliances and furniture where possible
- Purchase items loose or pack in to reusable bags, avoid packaging fruit and vegetables in plastic bags

REUSE

Have you ever heard the saying "one man's trash is another man's treasure"? It is possible to reinvent old items so they have a new life, rather than going into landfill.

Here are some ways to reuse old items from around the house:

- Take old books, magazines and toys to hospitals, medical clinics, schools or childcare centres so they can be enjoyed by others
- Hold a garage sale or swap meet stall and make some extra cash from your old stuff
- Take quality used clothing and household items to charity shops or community fêtes
- Use old clothes, curtains, sheets and towels for household rags
- Reuse containers such as glass jars for storage
- Use internet websites to sell, buy or trade unwanted goods
- Waste paper can be reused as scrap paper for messages or shopping lists
- Egg cartons can be reused as seedling trays in the garden

When reusing a product, try and identify a long term use for it. There are many ways to reuse things we consider unwanted or no longer useful.

Factsheet



Waste Avoidance

RECYCLE

Did you know that **95% less** resources are used when you recycle an aluminium can, compared to producing a new one? By recycling materials, less natural resources and energy are consumed compared to using raw materials. Another way you can support recycling efforts is to purchase products containing recycled content (eg. toilet and office paper).

It is really important to make sure your waste goes in the correct bin to prevent it going into landfill. If you aren't sure, you can check the **Recycle Right** website or **download the app** from the Google Play or iTunes stores.

It is also possible to recycle in your backyard! You just need a compost bin or worm farm. By mimicking nature's recycling process of decomposition, we can unlock and recycle the nutrients of our organic waste and return it to our gardens. Much of what we throw away each week is food scraps and garden waste. By recycling this waste in our backyards, we are improving soil quality, avoiding landfill and toxic greenhouse gas emissions.



Help us to help our community
by putting it in the right bin
recycleright.wa.gov.au

DISPOSAL

Disposal is the last option when it comes to waste management, but the one our society practices the most.

Disposing of waste is an increasingly serious environmental, social and economic issue in Australia. Some of the drawbacks of disposing waste in landfill are:

- The groundwater is contaminated with leaching toxins
- Organic waste decay produces toxic greenhouse gases such as methane
- Valuable resources are not recycled
- Using land for landfill means it cannot be used for housing or other sustainable developments. Instead its use is limited to recreational reserves such as golf courses

When we rethink our behaviours before purchasing and consuming items, we can avoid disposing of unwanted material altogether.

The **Recycle Right** app is free and available from the App Store or Google Play

