

TIPS FOR COLLECTING RECYCLING AT HOME

If you decide you would like to collect things at home for recycling you will need to set up a few new systems to make collecting as convenient as possible. This will encourage everyone in the home to participate and soon the family will have formed new habits with regard to handling their waste which will become second nature. You might prefer to collect only one or two types of items which you find most convenient, especially at first. Each household will have different circumstances and find different things work for them but here are some ideas for making recycling easier:

For glass, cans and plastic containers:

These items are mainly used in the kitchen and it is most useful to have either a separate bin to throw them in or to have a crate (wood or plastic) in which to store them under your sink or somewhere convenient. A crate makes it easy to pack your recycling straight into the car but a bin can also work if you line it with a strong plastic bag which you can take out and carry to the car. Colour coded bin bags can be used to help everyone remember which bin is for what. You might prefer a combination of the two with glass bottles placed in a crate and lighter items in a bin. It does not matter if the items are mixed together for collection purposes as they are easily sorted at a later stage. If you are constrained by space you could keep larger bins or crates in the garage and use something smaller in the kitchen for immediate disposal which you then empty out into the garage every day or so. Crushing tins helps to save space but do not break up glass bottles.

Items for recycling will also need to be cleaned before storing. Things like wine bottles or cool drink cans usually just need a rinse. This will prevent any liquid from fermenting and starting to smell and will avoid attracting insects. Tin cans or jars which contained food need to be washed out and this can be incorporated into your normal washing up in the sink or dishwasher. All bottle tops and jar lids must be thrown away with your rubbish and not left on their containers.

Plastic, cardboard and paper packaging, newspapers, magazines and white paper.

While some of these items will be found in the kitchen, you might find it more convenient to collect and store these in your home office or a spare room, for example. Again a crate or a large bin works well although you could also use space inside a cupboard, or a large draw like a filing cabinet draw. Even a large cloth sack works well which you could hang behind a door or inside a cupboard. Depending on the amounts you are collecting you could have more than one storage place. For example you could collect sheets of white paper from your office at home or at work in a smallish box or draw, while large pieces of plastic and cardboard packaging or large quantities of newspapers could be kept elsewhere. While these items do not need cleaning they should be taken away for recycling regularly and the containers dusted out or cleaned so as to avoid infestation by insects.

Visitors to your home:

Guests to your home also need to get to know how and where to put their rubbish to ensure that they don't inadvertently scrape their plates into your recycling bin or throw dirty containers in amongst your cleaned ones. Regular guests can be shown what to do but you may need to take some extra precautions when having a large number of people over to your house who may not all know about your recycling systems. Then it is worthwhile putting a notice on your recycling bin listing what is to be thrown into it, or, preferably putting out a large bin or crate especially for the occasion also with a clear notice on it into which guests can put their bottles and cans which you can then rinse out later and store.

Kiddies parties are also a time when large amounts of plastic, paper and cardboard packaging are accumulated and it is helpful to bring out a clean garbage bag when presents are being opened into which all the packaging can be placed and it can be sorted and flattened later and stored in the usual place.

Bringing Your Recycling to School:

At school you will find 3 large crates just inside the school gates into which you can place your recycling. Please place the correct items into the correct boxes. We have added a detailed list for you from the collection companies as to what is meant by the different categories so that you can ensure you do not include unwanted items in your recycling and so that you are able to collect as much as possible of what they require.

If you have any questions regarding the recycling or any tips you would like to share on how to recycle more easily and effectively, please SMS or e-mail Louise or Anna-Karien at the following addresses/numbers or chat to us at school:

Anna-Karien: e-mail:

Phone: 083 657 4573

Louise: e-mail: emeraldhill@pemail.co.za

phone: 082 416 9566

WHAT TO COLLECT AND WHAT TO THROW AWAY

Plastic:

On most plastic items you will find a symbol and/or code with a triangle which will indicate one of the types of plastic listed below. Some items do not have a symbol but you may be able to identify them yourself. **The types we are able to sell at the moment are marked with a star in the list so that you can include those types in your recycling.** Unfortunately the other types will have to be thrown away with your other rubbish.

Types of plastic:



*PETE or PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)

E.g.: Two liter cool drink or beverage bottles, mouthwash bottles, dishwashing liquid bottles, Windowlens bottles.



HDPE or PE-HD (High density polyethylene):

E.g.: Milk bottles, detergent bottles like Handy Andy and Dishwasher powder, fabric softener bottles.



PVC or V (Vinyl or Polyvinyl chloride)

E.g.: Cooking oil bottles, shampoo and bubble bath bottles.



*LDPE or PE-LD (Low Density Polyethylene)

E.g.: 'Soft' plastics like grocery bags, food wrap, bread, fruit and vegetable bags, sandwich bags and other soft wrapping plastic (as long as it is not 'sticky' plastic or contaminated with glue such as pallet wrap).



*PP (Polypropylene)

E.g.: Ice-cream containers, yogurt containers,



PS (Polystyrene & foam Polystyrene)

E.g. Plastic containers that crack when bent. E.g.: meat trays.
Take away food containers and cups, polystyrene packaging for protection of goods.



Other

All other types of plastic or packaging made from more than one type of plastic.

Glass:

Only glass bottles such as wine bottles, jam jars, sauce & spice bottles will be accepted for recycling. They need to be clean, unbroken and without any metal caps, corks or lids. It does not matter if they have labels stuck on them still, however. Glass items NOT accepted include the following: cups and saucers, oven ware, drinking glasses, ceramic ware, mirror glass, fluorescent tubes, light bulbs, windscreens, car lights, window panes, laboratory glass, wire reinforced glass.

Cans:

Beverage cans such as Coke cans can be crushed if preferred or left as they are for collection. Food cans can also be collected but they need to be clean. Aerosol cans cannot be collected.

Paper & cardboard:

All paper and cardboard should be clean and free of contaminants like staples, glue, cello tape, etc and should also not include any undesirable forms of paper and packaging which are also listed below.

Paper:

Includes computer printouts, white printer paper or writing paper, pastel coloured paper, written or lightly printed on and not in book form. Paper must be untreated and uncoated (see below).

Also newspapers, phone books, magazines, deep toned paper, catalogues, mechanical paper, envelopes, cores from paper towels and toilet rolls and books.

Cardboard:

Includes clean printed or unprinted corrugated cardboard cartons, boxes or sheets.

All of the following forms of paper and packaging can **NOT** be included for recycling:

- wet strength paper
- plasticized paper
- laminated paper
- photographs and overheads
- waxed and grease proof paper
- wax coated boxes or cartons
- photo copy ream wrap
- lever arch files
- Avocado pear boxes & banana boxes
- Potato pockets/bags & dog food bags
- Carbon paper & cellophane
- Self adhesive paper e.g. Post it notes, self adhesive envelopes
- Adhesive Tape
- Fruit juice and milk cartons