



# Recycling right in Waverley

A guide to help residents  
recycle more and better

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nature



WAVERLEY  
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# Why do we recycle?

Recycling creates a more efficient use of resources and maximises the full value of materials. This reduces the need to extract natural resources and avoids disposal of waste to landfill. Consequently, recycling helps lower greenhouse gas emissions by saving energy and water.

Waverley Council is working with the community to move away from the “take, make, dispose” approach to consumption.

By rethinking how we use resources and being innovative, we can stop waste being produced in the first place, keep materials in circulation for longer and make a positive impact on the environment. This is known as moving towards a circular economy, and recycling plays a key role.



# Waste and recycling in Waverley

Waverley Council has committed to achieve an 80% recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030, which means we must salvage as much material from our bins as possible.

Currently 35% of the general waste bin is food scraps, which can be recovered through the introduction of a food and organics collection service by 2030. Additionally, more than 30% of what is commonly found in the general waste bin can be recycled, including glass and plastic bottles, cardboard, newspapers, and magazines. When these items are not recovered, they needlessly end up in landfill and produce greenhouse gas emissions.

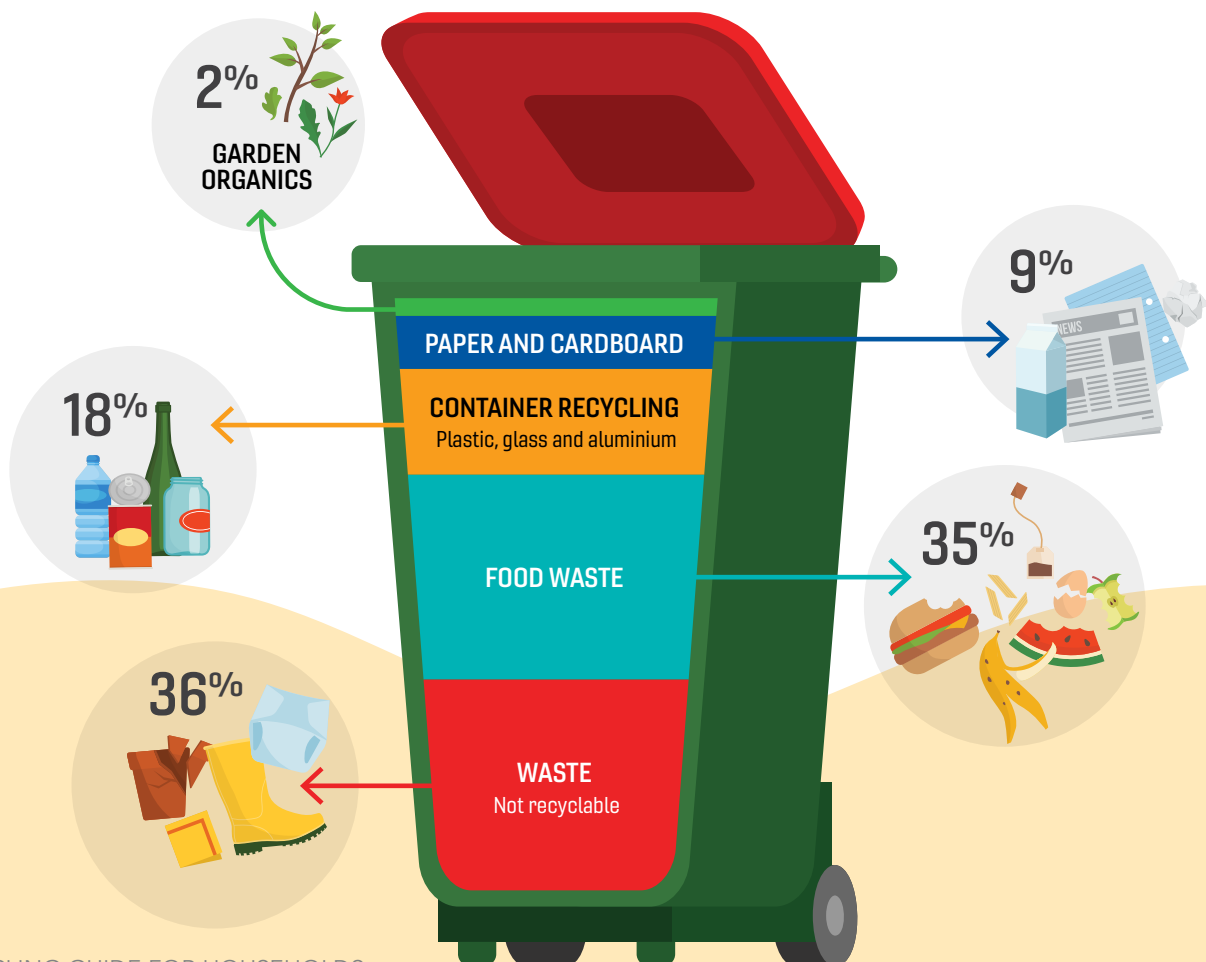
Since 2016, by diverting waste from landfill, Council has improved our waste recovery from 32% to 58%. But there is room to improve. Of the 24,300 tonnes of household waste collected last year, only 8,000 tonnes were placed in recycling or green bins by residents. This guide can help to improve recycling rates in Waverley, reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and our overall impact on the environment.

To reach our 80% recovery target and protect our environment, we must sort and process more materials that can be recycled (64% of the red bin content) and reduce the contamination of our recycling stream. This occurs when incorrect items are placed in the recycling bin, including items such as plastic bags and recoverable items such as batteries.

Contamination reduces the quality of the recycling stream and can result in entire truck contents being sent to landfill. By having a clean recycling stream, we are providing the best chance that our rubbish can be recycled into new materials.

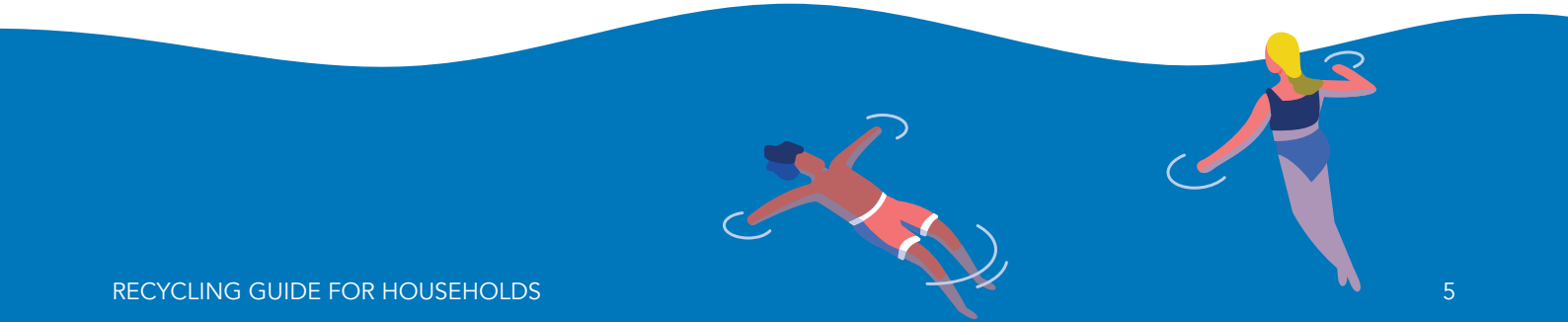
Waverley residents are essential to improving the recycling system. With every item you recycle, you are protecting our environment, reducing landfill volume and driving down global greenhouse gas emissions.

<sup>1</sup> [Waverley Environmental Action Plan \(EAP\) 2022-2032](#)



# Where does your recycling go?














After recycling bins are emptied, the contents are taken to the Visy Material Recovery Facility in Smithfield where they get sorted, separated into different material streams, and squashed into large bales to enter local product markets where viable.













# What can and can't be put in your recycling bin?

## Paper

### Accepted

	newspaper
	junk mail
	brochures
	office paper
	gift wrapping
	books
	packaging paper
	glossy paper and magazines
	envelopes (including window envelopes)
	greeting cards
	coloured paper
	paper bags
	scrap paper

### Not Accepted

	padded envelopes
	photographs
	thermal fax paper
	wax-coated paper
	tissues
	toilet paper
	paper towels
	baking paper
	shredded paper
	food waste and litter








### Tip

When recycling exercise books, remove any metal spines or plastic covers so it does not obstruct the machinery.



## Cardboard

### Accepted

	<b>cardboard boxes</b>
	<b>milk/juice cartons</b> <i>(e.g. long-life milk and fruit juice cartons/boxes)</i>
	<b>egg cartons</b>
	<b>toy boxes</b>
	<b>clean pizza and cereal boxes</b>
	<b>detergent boxes</b>
	<b>tissue boxes</b>

### Not Accepted

	<b>wax-coated cardboard boxes</b> <i>(e.g. fruit boxes)</i>
	<b>plastic bags</b>
	<b>long shelf life bottle</b> <i>(e.g. plant-based milk)</i>
	<b>greasy cardboard boxes</b> <i>(e.g. dirty pizza boxes)</i>
	<b>food waste and litter</b>








#### Tip

Use a box cutter, knife scissors or keys to cut any tape holding the box together. Stomp on the box to make it flat before placing it in the recycling bin.



## Plastic bottles, trays and containers

### Accepted

	<b>firm and flexible plastic containers</b> <i>(e.g. soft drink bottles)</i>
	<b>takeaway containers</b>
	<b>margarine containers</b>
	<b>milk and juice bottles</b>
	<b>yoghurt tubs</b>
	<b>detergent and shampoo bottles</b>
	<b>clean disposable plates and cups</b>

### Not Accepted

	<b>soft plastics</b> <i>(e.g. plastic bags)</i>
	<b>soiled plastics</b>
	<b>plastic film or cling wrap</b>
	<b>chip packets</b>
	<b>greasy cardboard boxes</b> <i>(e.g. dirty pizza boxes)</i>
	<b>toothpaste tubes</b>
	<b>bubble wrap</b>
	<b>styrofoam and polystyrene products</b>
	<b>straws</b>
	<b>Hard plastics that are not containers</b> <i>(e.g. toys or toothbrushes cannot be recycled)</i>

#### Tip

Keep lids on plastic bottles loosely screwed on. If they are screwed on too tightly, it will likely pop off during compaction and not get recovered.




## Metal (aluminium and steel)

### Accepted

	<b>aluminium and steel packaging</b>
	<b>aerosol cans</b>
	<b>paint tins</b> <i>(empty and dry)</i>
	<b>aluminium foil</b> <i>(combine pieces until they can be rolled into at least a tennis ball size before placing in the yellow bin)</i>
	<b>pie trays</b>
	<b>vegetable and food cans</b>
	<b>pet food cans</b>
	<b>soft drink cans</b>

### Not Accepted

	<b>batteries</b>
	<b>gas bottles</b>
	<b>wire</b>
	<b>scrap iron or tin</b>
	<b>cutlery and whitegoods</b>







#### Tip

Give containers a quick rinse to remove food residue and dry them before placing them in the recycling bin.



## Glass bottles and jars

### Accepted

	<b>glass used for packaging</b> <i>(i.e. all clear, green and brown bottles and jars)</i>
	<b>jam jars</b>
	<b>food jars</b>
	<b>sauce bottles</b>
	<b>beverage bottles</b>
	<b>vitamin bottles</b>

### Not Accepted

	<b>broken glass</b>
	<b>drinking glasses</b>
	<b>ceramics</b>
	<b>window glass</b>
	<b>mirror</b>
	<b>heat-proof glass</b>
	<b>cookware</b> <i>(e.g. Pyrex)</i>

#### Tip

Metal lids on glass containers should be removed as they are too small to be recycled. Place the metal lids in a tin can and squeeze the lid shut for easy recycling.





# More tips to recycle right

## Check it before you chuck it

Labels on packaging are helpful but they are not always accurate. In Australia, the [Australasian Recycling Label](#) (ARL) is the most trusted recycling labelling system and provides you with easy-to-understand recycling information. Other recycling labels are subject to each council's recycling rules.



## Keep plastics bags out of the recycling bin

Never place your recyclables in plastic bags before you place them in your recycling bin. Plastic bags will jam the machinery at the material recovery facility, meaning neither the bags, nor the items inside, can be recycled. [Order a set of reusable recycling collection bags](#) or use a container or box to store your recycling before putting them into your bin.

## Recycle items that are bigger or heavier than a credit card

Very small or light-weight items such as plastic cutlery, bottle caps and more, are too small to get sorted, and consequently may jam the equipment at the recycling facility.

## Recycle right and stop 'wish cycling'

'Wish cycling' is when we throw something in the recycling bin in the hope it can be recycled. Many of the items people 'wish cycle' cannot be placed in the recycling bin. If in doubt, check the [A-Z Waste and Recycling Guide](#) or visit Recycling Near You.

### Tip

The triangle logo with a number inside is not a recycling label. The number is a plastic resin code which indicates what type of plastic the item is made of.



# What to do with items that cannot go in a recycling bin?

Council provides yellow and blue recycling bins to residents for the recycling of **paper, cardboard, rigid plastic, metal (aluminium and steel) and glass**. Many other items can be recycled but require a different disposal method.

## Batteries

Household batteries can be disposed of at Council's [problem waste stations](#) and [Recycle It Saturday](#) quarterly events.

Car batteries can be disposed of at Council's [Recycle It Saturday](#) or [Household Chemical CleanOut](#) events.

## Electronic waste

Electronic waste (e-waste) includes products that have a plug or a battery and are at the end of life. It includes items like smartphones, tablets, TVs, computers and more.

Small e-waste can be disposed of at Council's [problem waste stations](#). Bigger items (except white goods) can be disposed of at one of the [Recycle It Saturday](#) quarterly events.

## Soft plastics

Soft plastics, such as plastic bags, garbage bags, wrappers and cling wrap are lightweight and frequently become tangled around rotating machinery parts. At the time of printing this guide, there is no available free solution to recycle soft plastics in Australia.

Until alternative soft plastics recycling services are established, we encourage Waverley residents to refuse and reduce soft plastic packaging where possible. When needing to dispose of them, soft plastics must be placed in the red lidded bin.

## Food waste

Place your food waste in the general bin. Where possible, use a compost bin to turn your food scraps into fertiliser and help improve soil health. In Waverley, options to compost include:

- Join the [Compost Revolution](#) to get up to 80% discount on compost bins and worm farms
- Find a compost bin with [Sharewaste](#)
- Contact a community or shared garden to enquire about compost opportunities

## Garden waste

Dispose of your garden waste in the green lidded bin. The organics content is then used in fertiliser and soil conditioners.



# What about other problem waste?

Waverley Council and the NSW Government provide other disposal options for problem waste i.e items that cannot be easily recycled.

## Waverley Council's initiatives:

### Recycle It Saturday

Household items such as batteries, e-waste, globes, bulky cardboard, polystyrene, soft plastics, small metal items and more can be recycled at Waverley Council's quarterly [Recycle It Saturday](#) events.

### Problem Waste Stations

Small household items such as household batteries, printer cartridges, oral care products, X-rays and more can be dropped-off for free at one of Council's [problem waste stations](#).

### Clean Up Collection

Households are offered up to three free [bulky goods clean-ups](#) per year, including one scheduled and two 'Your Call' clean-up collections.

### Community Sharps Disposal

Waverley residents who use needles, syringes or lancets for health reasons can safely dispose of them easily at [participating chemists and pharmacies in Waverley](#).

## NSW Government initiative:

### Household Chemical CleanOut events

Household chemicals such as gas bottles, fire extinguishers, motor and cooking oil, ammonia-based cleaner and more can be disposed of at one of the NSW government free [CleanOut](#) events.

