



put it in the right bin



Fast facts!

- Food and other organic material will break down in a landfill and release methane gas and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, both of which are greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming.
- One of the fastest-growing types of waste in Australia is electronic waste (e-waste). This includes computers, printers and mobile phones. Make sure you look for a local e-waste collection depot or drop-off point when your electronic goods need to be disposed of.
- Australians need to improve their disposal of hazardous materials such as batteries, light globes and old medicines. These items are often put into landfill bins, but should be disposed of using special collection bins or drop-off points.
- Recycling one tonne of paper can save 13 trees and over 31,000 litres of water. It also uses about half the energy to make paper from recycled materials than it does to make it from wood pulp. Another great reason to recycle!
- Glass is an amazing material because it can be recycled over and over again. Making glass by recycling and not from raw materials takes 75% less energy, which has many benefits for the environment.
- Recycling aluminium cans to make new cans is much easier than making them from raw materials, and takes 95% less energy. Recycling 20 cans into new cans uses the same amount of energy as making one can from bauxite (a natural resource that is mined).
- Would you believe that Australians throw out about 4 million tonnes of food scraps and uneaten food every year? That's a lot of waste!
- Over 200,000 plastic bags go to landfill in Australia every hour, yet many can be re-used and there are bins at the supermarket to collect them for recycling. (2012)
- In 2006-2007, Australians generated almost 48 million tonnes of waste. Of that, only 52% or just under 25 million tonnes was recycled.

