

Tips for your general waste bin

Avoid first, maximise recycling and minimise waste

Make the most of your general waste bin with these helpful tips:

1. Know what belongs in the General Waste Bin

Acceptable Items:

- Non-recyclable plastic (check for recycling symbols)*.
- Polystyrene foam and containers.
- Ceramics and broken glass (not suitable for recycling).
- Hygiene products (e.g. used tissues, sanitary items).

2. Reduce food waste

- **Use FOGO:** Dispose of food scraps and garden waste in your FOGO bin.
- **Plan meals:** Create shopping lists and plan meals to minimise excess food purchases.
- **Store properly:** Keep fruits and vegetables in appropriate containers to extend their freshness.

3. Be mindful of packaging

- **Choose wisely:** Opt for products with minimal packaging or recyclable materials. Consider non-plastic alternatives such as bamboo toothbrushes or metal straws.
- **Make changes** such as use a keep cup rather than using a single use coffee cup or take a container to the butcher.
- **Buy in bulk** eg. buy a large packet of chips and then put portions in container (keeps it fresh too) or buy a tub of yoghurt that is recyclable, rather than the pouches which aren't.

4. Organise your waste

- **Separate your waste:** Use separate bins for recyclables, organics (FOGO), and general waste.
- **Educate your family:** Ensure everyone in the household understands where to dispose of different materials.

5. Dispose of hazardous waste properly

- **Check for programs:** Items like batteries, paints, and chemicals should not go in general waste. Use local disposal programs or events for hazardous materials.

6. Monitor your bin use

- **Track your waste:** Keep an eye on what goes into your general waste bin. Consider what can be recycled or composted instead.
- **Adjust habits:** It might be time to rethink how you dispose of waste – can some items be reused such as old clothes can go to a charity or turned into rags. Consider alternatives such as beeswax wraps instead of clingwrap, menstrual cups or period underwear, modern cloth nappies instead of disposables.

7. Participate in community initiatives

- **National recycling week:** Engage with local activities during National Recycling Week to enhance your recycling knowledge.
- **Join challenges:** Participate in waste reduction challenges to encourage sustainable habits.
- **Attend workshops:** Join community workshops and information sessions to learn more about reducing waste.



Download the Recycle Right App or visit Recycle Right to check what goes in each bin! recycleright.com.au

? Did you know?

Some recyclable materials end up in general waste. The Walliston Transfer Station accepts **unlimited** entries for recyclable items. ^