Your guide to recycling and reducing waste

Recycling is easy and it’s something we can all do to help our community, our environment and our future.

Find out more: phone 09 379 2028
or visit www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/recycling
Every time we reuse or recycle, we are reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, helping to reduce economic cost and saving precious natural resources and our environment.
Introduction

Auckland City Council needs your support to reduce and recycle household waste that is currently going to landfill.

This brochure tells you everything you need to know about our new recycling service and wheelie bin. Take a few minutes to read it and keep it as a reference guide to help you recycle wisely.

Why should I recycle?

Auckland City Council is using kerbside recycling to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill. Of the 86,000 tonnes of rubbish that went to landfill in 2007, about 20,000 tonnes could have been put out for the recycling collection.

The new recycling collection service is designed to make recycling easier by allowing you to combine glass bottles, plastic containers from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry, aluminium and steel cans, mixed paper and cardboard in the same bin. It also stops recycling blowing around on the street. There will not be a separate paper collection – all paper and cardboard can be emptied into the recycling wheelie bin with other recyclable materials for collection.

You can make a huge difference to reducing your waste by sorting recyclable materials from your rubbish. Recycling reduces the need to take raw materials from our fragile environment and saves energy. Here are some examples of how your recycling efforts can reduce the impact on the environment.

Paper and cardboard

Making paper from recycled materials results in 74 per cent less air pollution and 35 per cent less water pollution.

Every tonne of paper and cardboard recycled saves 13 trees.

Glass jars and bottles

Recycling a glass jar saves enough energy to light a bulb for four hours.

Recycling glass saves 25 to 32 per cent of the energy used to make it.

Plastic bottles and containers

Making a tonne of plastic containers with recycled plastic conserves about 7200 kWh of electricity.

Five 2L bottles make enough fibrefill for one jacket.

Aluminium and steel cans

Turning old cans into new cans saves 95 per cent of the energy needed to make new cans from raw materials.

Recycling one aluminium can saves enough electricity to run a computer or a television for three hours.
Your new recycling wheelie bin

We have now made recycling even easier. You can put paper and cardboard in the same bin as aluminium and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic containers from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry marked with any of the following symbols:

The new bin will be collected every second week on the same day as your usual rubbish collections. Please place your bin out the night before your collection or before 7am on the day of your collection. Collected materials will be taken to a new state-of-the-art recycling facility for processing.

Every eligible property will receive one 240L recycling wheelie bin. This bin is assigned to your property so it must remain there if you move.

What can be recycled in my blue-lidded bin?

Put these items in your blue-lidded bin:

- newspapers, magazines, unsolicited mail and brochures
- cardboard and non-foil wrapping paper
- dry food packaging such as cereal boxes
- pizza boxes (free of any food remnants)
- telephone directories
- writing paper and envelopes (even those with plastic windows)
- plastic milk bottles and soft drink bottles
- plastic shampoo and conditioner bottles
- plastic household cleaning fluid bottles such as washing-up liquid
- any plastic containers from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry marked with any of the symbols 1-7
- drink cans – aluminium and steel
- glass bottles and jars (place them carefully in the new recycling wheelie bin to minimise breakage)
- food tins (rinsed)
- aerosols
- yoghurt, margarine and ice cream containers
- Tetra Pak cartons.

Remember

Put recyclable materials into your recycling bin loosely – packing materials into the bin too tightly may make it difficult to empty. There is no need to bundle or sort items.
If in doubt, leave it out

Placing the wrong items in your recycling bin could contaminate an entire truckload of recycling material. Think carefully before placing items into your recycling bin.

Blue-lidded bins containing non-recyclable material will not be collected.

- Place recyclable materials in your bin loosely.
- Do not place recyclable items in a plastic bag. Plastics bags clog up the machinery at the recycling facility and contaminate the entire load.

What cannot be recycled in my blue-lidded bin?

- Rinse containers and empty bottles, to prevent odour and help keep your bin clean.
- Lids from plastic containers can be recycled so place them in the bin as well.
- Flatten or tear cardboard boxes to save space.
- You don’t need to remove labels from tins, bottles or jars, but make sure that all containers are free of liquids, food scraps or any another type of contamination.
- You can leave staples in magazines.
- You don’t need to remove the transparent windows from envelopes.

Do not put these items in your blue-lidded bin:

- ✓ cling film and plastic shopping bags
- ✓ engine oil bottles and automotive parts
- ✓ paint or chemicals
- ✓ hot ashes
- ✓ rubbish or food waste
- ✓ garden waste
- ✓ polystyrene
- ✓ drinking glasses
- ✓ ceramics, crockery, porcelain and ovenware
- ✓ disposable nappies
- ✓ light bulbs
- ✓ mirrors
- ✓ window or windscreen glass
- ✓ computers.
How do I prepare my recyclable items?

To recycle aluminium and steel cans, simply rinse, squash and place into your blue-lidded bin.

Papers, daily newspapers and cardboard should lie loosely in the bin. Flatten large cardboard boxes or tear them into smaller pieces that fit easily into your recycling blue-lidded bin.

Glass bottles and jars must be cleaned. Thoroughly wash any glass that has food remnants. Also, wash any glass container that has held any sort of caustic cleaning product or other noxious substance.

For plastic containers, look for recycling symbols on the bottom or side to ensure they are recyclable. Your recycling bin can take any plastic containers from the kitchen, bathroom and laundry that have any of the following symbols marked on them:

![Recycling symbols](https://example.com/recycling-symbols.png)

Remove lids, then rinse and squash the containers before placing them into your recycling bin. Plastic lids are also recyclable so put these into your blue-lidded bin as well.

When will my bin be collected?

Your recycling bin will be collected every second week on the same day as your area’s weekly rubbish day. Please place your bin out the night before your collection or before 7am on the day of your collection.

You can find out when your collection day is by visiting www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/recycling, or in the recycling calendar contained in this pack. Bins will only be emptied on the specified collection date.

Your collection days may change from time to time to allow for public holidays. When a public holiday falls on your recycling collection day, your recyclable material will normally be collected the next day. Christmas and New Year collection dates may differ – look for public notices in suburban newspapers and City Scene in December. Information can also be found at www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/recycling.

Bins must be taken in from the roadside by 7am the day after collection day.
Where do I place my bin?

On your collection day, put your recycling bin on the footpath, grass verge or berm closest to where the collection vehicle passes, with its handles facing the house. The bin should be clear of trees and other obstructions (such as parked cars and light poles).

We will only empty bins that have the lid closed. Recycling that is not in the bin will not be taken.

Place your bin facing the kerb. Arrows on the bin indicate the correct placement.

Where possible, allow at least one metre between your bin and any parked cars or trees. The mechanical arm will not be able to pick up bins from behind parked cars or if the bin is too close to trees.

Allow half a metre between your blue-lidded recycling bin and your rubbish bin.

Do not overfill your bin – the lid must be closed for collection. Do not place extra items next to or on top of the bin as these cannot be collected.
Where does my recycling go?

The recycling truck empties your bin and takes the materials to the Visy recycling facility in Onehunga. Here, the recyclables are sorted by machine, processed and baled before being sent to markets for recycling. For more information on the recycling facility, visit www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/recycling

About your bin

Moving home
If you are moving, please leave your rubbish and recycling bins at the property for the next occupant. All bins belong to the council and carry a unique identification number registered to the property address.

Damaged or stolen bins
If your bin is damaged or stolen, please visit www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/recycling or contact Auckland City Council on 09 379 2028 to arrange for repair or replacement.

Looking after your bin
Hose out your recycling bin thoroughly once a month and ensure the lid is always closed.

What if I can’t use the wheelie bin?
For most people, a wheelie bin is easy to move even when full, but if you are having difficulties once the collections have started, contact us to see how we can help you.

Old blue crates are still useful
You can keep your old blue recycling crate, but after the new service starts in your area, you will not be able to use it for kerbside collections on your collection day. We encourage you to use the blue crate as your indoor recycling bin. When it gets full, simply take the recyclable materials in the crate and empty them into your 240L blue-lidded recycling bin. Take care with glass bottles and jars to minimise breakage.

Dumped rubbish
Illegal dumping is the disposal of waste in an unauthorised area, usually to avoid disposal costs or the time and effort required for proper disposal. Illegal dumping is hazardous to health, wildlife and the environment. It is also an economic burden on local government.

Anyone who witnesses illegal dumping on public land, or suspects it may have occurred, should call the council’s 24-hour contact centre on 09 379 2020. If you can, note the exact location, the registration number of any vehicles involved and any other detail that can help the council follow up the case.

Those who dump rubbish illegally are liable to pay costs plus a fine of up to $500.

Your guide to reuse, recycling and disposal
Want to recycle your old computer or mobile phone? Ever wondered what to do with old gas cylinders? For a list of service providers and facilities for reuse, recycling and disposal of all sorts of materials, see our A-Z guide at www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/recycling

What do I do with other types of waste?

Hazardous waste
You should not dispose of any hazardous waste in your household rubbish bin or recycling bin. Hazardous waste is any waste generated in the home, garden or garage that is dangerous to health or the environment, or can cause damage to property. Hazardous wastes that need to be disposed of correctly include:

- explosive – fireworks, ammunition and marine emergency flares
- flammable – petrol, kerosene, oil and some types of paint
- corrosive – strongly acidic and caustic cleaning fluids
- chemically reactive – pool chemicals
- toxic – garden sprays, rat poison, solvents and various cleaners
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- **eco-toxic** — oil, paint and all kinds of batteries
- **radioactive** — smoke alarms.

Auckland City Council offers a free drop-off service called HazMobile to help you dispose of your unwanted hazardous waste in an environmentally safe way.

HazMobile collects four times a year. Visit www.hazmobile.govt.nz to find out collection dates and location maps for your area, plus more information on the safe disposal of household hazardous waste.

Old computer equipment and mobile phones

Don't put these items in your rubbish or recycling bins. Mobile phones can be recycled at participating recreation centres, libraries, Telecom and Vodafone shops. Computers and equipment can be recycled and reused. Visit www.computerrecycling.co.nz

Working order computers can be donated to charities or www.donatenz.co.nz and computers, computer accessories and televisions can be taken to www.rcn.co.nz

Garden and kitchen waste

Almost 50 per cent of household waste is food scraps and garden rubbish, which can be composted or used in a worm farm. Organic waste such as food scraps and garden cuttings may seem harmless, but when placed in a landfill they break down and release methane as a by-product. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, which is about 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

You can lessen the impact on the environment by using the following methods to help you recycle your garden and kitchen waste.

**Composting, worm farming and Bokashi**

- Create your own Eden by composting food and garden waste in your garden, or start an easy-to-use, low-maintenance, odourless worm farm or Bokashi system that can be kept inside or outside.

Paint

HazMobile no longer accepts paint (except for toxic paint such as old lead paint and marine antifouling paint). Other types of paint and paint tins can be taken year round for reuse, recycling or safe disposal to:

- Resene ColorShops outlets participating in Resene’s PaintWise scheme (see www.resene.co.nz/paintwise.htm for further details)
- participating PlaceMakers stores as part of the Enviropaint take back recycling scheme (see www.placemakers.co.nz)

Community groups can get good quality paint for free by applying through the Resene PaintWise website.

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How can I reduce my rubbish?

Waste is an issue that affects everybody every day – from the simple choices we make when shopping to the way we dispose of it. Waste has a major impact on our environment but the good news is that a little thought can make a huge difference. Here are some simple things you can do.

Smart shopping
✓ Say “no” to plastic bags and use reusable shopping bags instead.
✓ Buy products with less packaging (economy size and concentrates).
✓ Buy products with recyclable packaging.
✓ Buy long-life products, not disposables.
✓ Buy products made with recycled content.
✓ Buy refills.
✓ Buy fewer toxic products or use natural alternatives (cleaners and pesticides).
✓ Shop at environmentally friendly businesses.
✓ Buy only what you need.

Reduce paper waste – stop unwanted mail
✓ You can unsubscribe to many national mailings through the Marketing Association website, www.marketing.co.nz
✓ Say “no” to unsolicited mail by putting a “no circulars” sticker on your letterbox.

Buy back recycling
✓ Close the loop and buy back recycling – visit the zero waste website, www.zerowaste.co.nz to find businesses that sell products made from recycled materials in New Zealand.
This brochure contains important information about your new kerbside recycling collection. To read this information in another language, please visit www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/recycling.