



CONTACT DETAILS

If you are not sure whether a material should be included in the recycling bin or not or for any other questions on recycling please ask:

Call centre: 086 111 2468
Website: www.environment.gov.za



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WORKING TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER SOUTH AFRICA

REDUCE. RE-USE. RECYCLE. RECOVERY



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA




DID YOU KNOW?

Waste can have negative impacts on the environment and on human beings. For example it can cause diseases. It is therefore important to ensure that waste is managed in a manner that will minimise those impacts. Good waste management follows primarily the 4Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Recovery; as well as avoiding illegal dumping and littering.

BENEFITS OF THE 4Rs

- **Conserves natural resources and saves energy** - by re-using and recycling waste for the manufacturing of new items instead of using natural resources all the time.
- **Saves landfill airspace** - our landfill sites can last longer and not require additional land which can instead be used for other things e.g. agriculture, housing etc.
- **Reduces pollution** - which could have resulted in the disposal of the material.
- **Creates jobs and reduces poverty** - the involvement of people in the value chain creates additional job opportunities.



Picking up litter creates a cleaner environment.

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS CAN BE RECYCLED:

- **Paper** (cardboard, newspapers, magazines)
- **Glass** (containers – jars and bottles)
- **Plastics** (bags and containers - bottles)
- **Metal** (Food and drink cans)
- **Tetra Packs** (foil lined containers e.g. milk and juice boxes)
- **Polystyrene/Styrofoam** (white takeaway cups and food containers)

Notes:

- ◇ *Remove all caps and lids*
- ◇ *Empty all contents and rinse (Bottles and jars)*
- ◇ *Flatten all plastic and paper containers/boxes*
- ◇ *Ensure that bottles are not broken*

“Recovery” means the controlled extraction or retrieval of any substance, material or object from waste;

Examples of recovery include:

- material recovery (such as recovery of metal from scrap metal);
- recovery of energy from waste (often called waste to energy; where usable forms of energy such as electricity, heat and transport fuels can be generated); and
- recovery of gas (example methane gas from landfill sites).

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS RECYCLING?

- Buy products in bulk, to reduce the amount of materials being thrown away as waste.
- Buy products made from recycled material. This will ensure the sustainability of the recycling sector.
- Buy products that are packaged in material that can be recycled.
- Re-use some of the waste e.g. use old tyres to grow flowers or make a food garden, cold drink bottles to make water bottles and/or jewellery containers.
- Buy reusable quality products such as non-disposable cameras, reusable or electric razors, reusable dishes, mugs and utensils, and have your child carry lunch in a reusable lunch box.
- Collect recyclable material and take it to a buy-back or drop-off centre near you.

