


# WASTE FACTSHEET

## WHAT WASTE GOES WHERE?

On average, only 37% of the contents of red-lid general waste bins is classified as 'waste' which is not accepted in either of the yellow-lid recycling or green-lid garden organics bins.

### THE HOUSEHOLD RED-LID GENERAL WASTE BIN

General waste from your red-lid general waste bin is picked up from the kerbside on a weekly basis (in urban areas) and is transported and processed into landfill at the Singleton Waste Management Facility on Dyring Road.

 The items below are accepted in general waste:

- ✓ Soft plastics such as plastic bags, packets, wrappers, bubble and cling wrap
- ✓ Food scraps and waste
- ✓ Non-recyclable hard plastic household items such as toys, coat hangers, buckets and washing baskets
- ✓ Old, damaged clothing, shoes, accessories & linen
- ✓ Polystyrene (also called Styrofoam or simply foam)
- ✓ Nappies, wipes & feminine hygiene products
- ✓ Tissues, paper towel & serviettes
- ✓ Crockery and cutlery
- ✓ Ceramics
- ✓ Drinking glasses and other glassware
- ✓ Window glass/ mirrors
- ✓ Metal household items such as pots and pans, coat hangers and scrap steel
- ✓ Waxed paper/ cardboard
- ✓ Bagged animal droppings/waste



The following items should not be placed in the red-lid general waste bin:

- Recyclables
- Garden organics
- Gas cylinders and fire extinguishers
- Hazardous liquid wastes such as chemicals, paints and oils
- Household and car batteries
- Asbestos
- Explosive, flammable, corrosive, toxic or radioactive wastes
- Fluoro globes and tubes
- Tyres
- Medical waste and syringes
- Building materials
- Soil and rocks
- Electronic waste (E-waste)



### HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL DISPOSAL

Household chemicals can be dropped off for free during a scheduled Household Chemical CleanOut event at Council's Community Recycling Centre, located at the Dyring Rd Waste Management Facility. Household quantities (up to a maximum of 20 litres or 20 kilograms of a single item) of household chemicals such as solvents and household cleaners, ammonia-based cleaners, pesticides and herbicides, poisons, pool chemicals, hobby chemicals and more are accepted.

[Click here](#) to visit the EPA's website for the full list of accepted items and to check the date of the next clean out event.

T 02 6578 7290  
E [council@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@singleton.nsw.gov.au)  
W [singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://singleton.nsw.gov.au)



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## HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Hazardous waste can be defined as any items that are labelled as flammable, combustible, corrosive, toxic, an oxidising agent or require caution when using. They can cause fires in waste collection vehicles and facilities which endangers workers, so should not be placed in any of the household bins.

Household hazardous wastes can be dropped off for free at Council's Community Recycling Centre located at the Dyring Rd Waste Management Facility. Household quantities (up to a maximum of 20 litres or 20 kilograms of a single item) of the hazardous wastes pictured below are accepted.



## IMPACTS OF LANDFILL

Landfills are not designed to breakdown waste; they only store it. Although most of the waste materials will eventually decompose, this process is extremely slow. Some materials take hundreds or even thousands of years to breakdown. With growing local and national populations, it's more important than ever to act towards reducing your waste to prolong the life of existing landfills. In doing so, you will be helping to delay the requirement for new landfills to be constructed in the Singleton area and preserving local land.

When organic material such as food and garden waste is buried in landfill, it breaks down anaerobically (without the presence of oxygen) and in doing so, releases harmful greenhouse gases. This includes large quantities of the greenhouse gas methane, which is 24 times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide, and contributes to global warming and climate change.

Another pollutant known as 'leachate' is a highly toxic liquid that accumulates at the bottom of landfills. Modern day landfills have a number of technologies in place to capture and treat leachate to prevent it from escaping and damaging the local environment. Older landfills or those created illegally on privately owned land pose this environmental risk.

It should be noted, however, that although the process of landfilling waste is not optimal, it is the most viable method of disposing of waste materials that cannot currently be recycled or reprocessed.

## DOING YOUR PART TO REDUCE LANDFILL

Correctly using your yellow-lid recycling bin and green-lid garden organics bin is the easiest way to minimise the amount of waste destined for landfill and maximise the recovery of valuable resources. Creating new materials from old products is referred to as 'closing the loop'. Maximising the recovery of resources not only saves limited local landfill space, but also reduces the use of raw materials in the manufacture of new products. This preserves natural resources (many of which are 'non-renewable', such as coal and oil) and reduces the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and climate change.

With food waste accounting for approximately 40% of household red-lid general waste bin contents, backyard composting and worm farming is a great way to significantly reduce household waste. Check out our composting and worm farming factsheets for tips on how to get started.

Check out our factsheet on the waste hierarchy to consider ways you can 'rethink/avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle' to minimise landfill.

By reducing our waste generation rate, we extend the life of landfills, decrease the demand for new disposal sites, preserve local land and reduce our overall environmental impact.

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E [council@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@singleton.nsw.gov.au)  
W [singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://singleton.nsw.gov.au)

