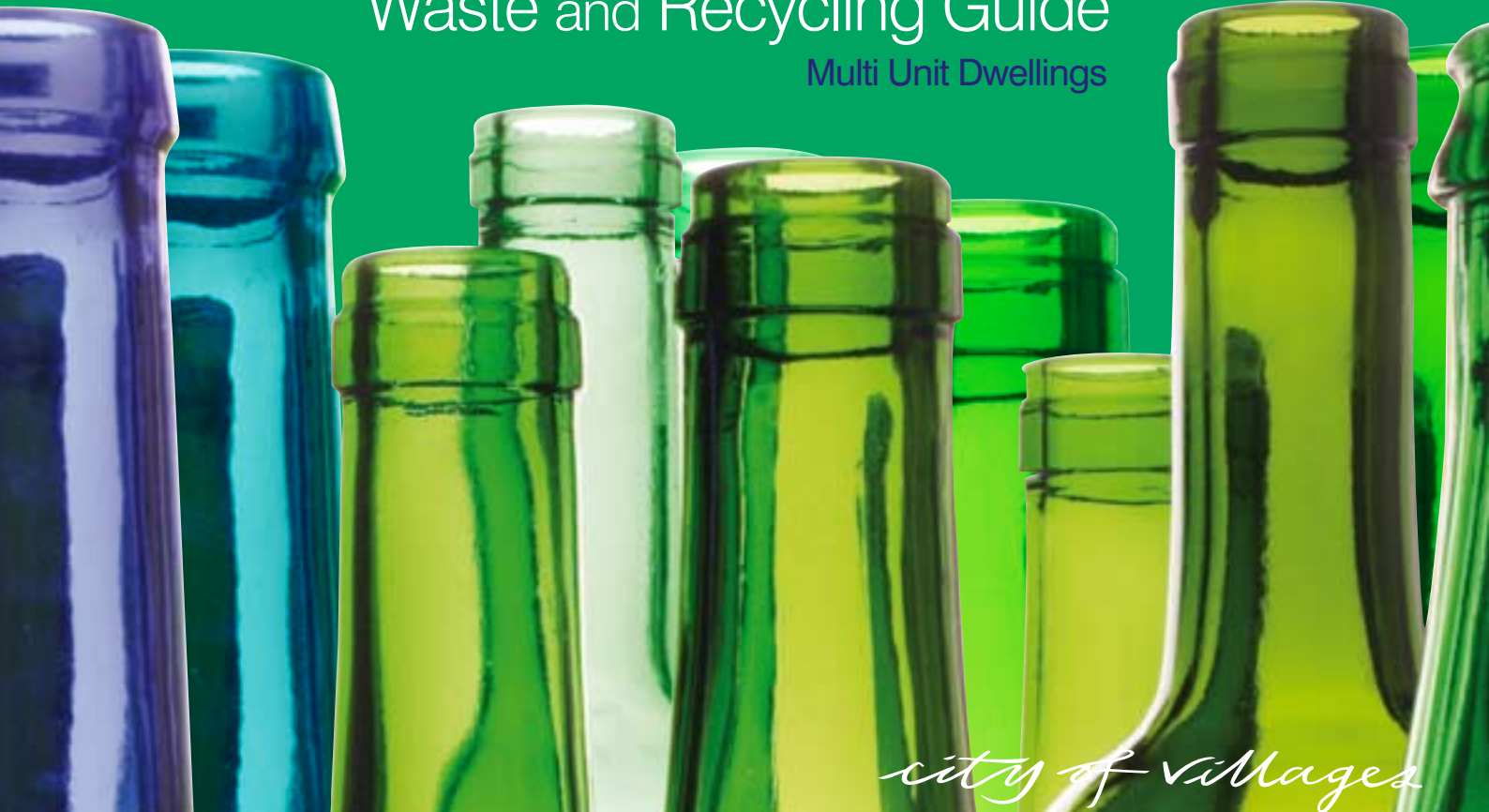


City of Sydney

# Waste and Recycling Guide

Multi Unit Dwellings



*city of villages*

For Waste and Recycling enquiries contact The City on 9265 9333  
Monday to Friday from 8.00am - 6.00pm.

[www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/waste](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/waste)

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



The average City of Sydney household sends 10kg of general waste to landfill each week and much of this material can be put to a better use, re-used or recycled.

## Why it's important

Doing this helps to lessen our impact on the environment. We're running out of landfill sites in Sydney. If we keep generating waste at the current rate, our landfill sites will soon reach their limit.

**Recycling is just one easy way to 'recover' resources** – Recovering materials like glass, plastic, paper and even food, so they don't become waste means we save on the natural resources and the energy it might take to produce something from entirely new materials.

## It's never been easier

You can now recycle more than ever before. We're always looking to improve our service to you because we're aiming to cut our city's waste by half. Help us make it happen. Recycle more. Recover more.

## The services we provide

Council will collect your

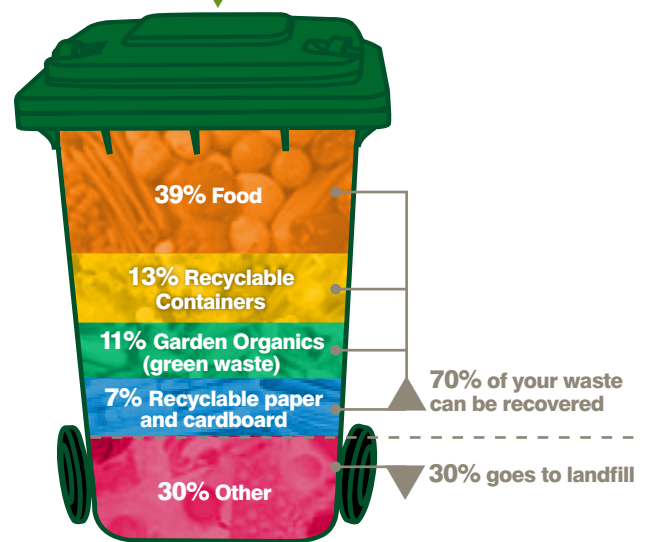
- ★ Waste and recycling – including FREE extra bins for recycling
- ★ Unwanted household goods and furniture – including white goods like fridges, stoves etc.
- ★ Garden organics (garden waste)



### About this guide

This guide will help you work out what you can and can't recycle. But if you're one of the many who already recycle, then take it a step further. Turn to the last page for what else you can do to reduce waste.

## What's in your bin?



**Recycling** saves on precious natural resources like water. It also reduces energy consumption overall.

Paper and Cardboard

Garbage

Mixed Containers



## Top tip

- ★ Separate your waste from your recyclables

# Mixed Container Recycling



## What happens to it?

Mixed containers are separated and sorted at the materials recovery facility and then sent to be reprocessed at various locations. Plastics may be reprocessed into clothing like winter fleeces. Aluminium cans could be used to build aeroplanes.



## Top tips

- ★ Buy products with recyclable packaging
- ★ Use separate containers for waste and recycling
- ★ Remove lids
- ★ Lightly rinse your recycling items
- ★ Leave labels on – these are removed in the recycling process



### Did you know?

Plastic bags can jam the machinery in the recycling process. Although we can't recycle them, many supermarkets can. Find one near you at [www.recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au)



Need bin bay stickers or signs? Not sure about what you can recycle? Call **9265 9333**.

**YES**



(Plastic bottles and containers with these symbols on the base)

- ✓ Steel and aluminium cans, aerosols, jar lids and saucepans, foil and foil trays
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars – clear, brown, green and blue coloured
- ✓ Disposable plastic containers numbered 1-7 (excluding polystyrene), food, drink, cleaning and personal care product containers
- ✓ Cartons – Liquid paperboard milk, juice cartons and tetra packs



**NO**



- ✗ Light globes, mirrors and window glass
- ✗ Broken crockery (cups and plates), ceramics or Pyrex
- ✗ Plastic bags, wrap, film and bubble wrap
- ✗ Polystyrene - foam meat trays, take-away containers and packaging
- ✗ Sharps / syringes
- ✗ Disposable nappies
- ✗ Plastic toys
- ✗ Mixed cardboard and steel containers (eg. chip cylinders)



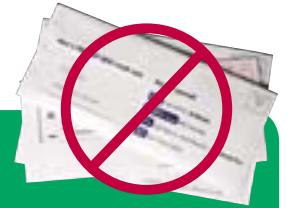
# Paper and Cardboard Recycling

## What happens to it?

Paper is taken to a paper mill and made into new cardboard boxes.

## Top tips

- ★ Don't worry about removing staples and plastic windows – these are removed in the recycling process
- ★ If boxes are too large for the recycling bin – flatten, fold, bundle, tie neatly put them in the right place in the bin storage area



### Did you know?

You can register to stop receiving White or Yellow Pages by calling Sensis on **1800 810 211**.



### Did you know?

Having a 'No Advertising Material' sticker on your mailbox helps prevent unsolicited junk mail. Call the Distribution Standards Board on freephone **1800 676 136** to find out how to get a sticker or buy one from a hardware store.

## YES



- ✓ Cardboard packaging
- ✓ Flattened cardboard boxes
- ✓ Egg cartons
- ✓ Telephone books and clean paper bags,
- ✓ Newspapers, magazines and junk mail
- ✓ Office paper
- ✓ Envelopes and tissue boxes with windows
- ✓ Empty pizza boxes – without any food residue



## NO



- ✗ Food-soiled paper and cardboard
- ✗ Waxed paper and cardboard
- ✗ Tissues and napkins
- ✗ Mixed cardboard and steel containers (eg. chip cylinders)





# Garden Organics Recycling – Green Waste

## What happens to it?

Garden organics are reprocessed into mulch (wood chip) and soil conditioner (compost) for reuse.

## Top tips

- ★ Put all garden organics in a bin with the lime green lid
- ★ Cut large branches into 1m lengths, bundle them so they're not too heavy to lift, tie with a natural fibre string and put them neatly next to the bin
- ★ Bear in mind garden organics placed in boxes or plastic bags won't be collected
- ★ Keep it to 2 cubic metres per booking – this is up to a small box trailer load



We run **FREE** composting and worm farming workshops every month. Turn to the Be Involved page to find out more.

## Did you know?

Your Building Manager or Body Corporate can book a fortnightly garden organics waste collection service and order a green waste bin. Ask them to call **9265 9333** for a booking and check out our green waste calendar on the web.

Communal composting at the Watertower unit block, Redfern



## YES



- ✓ Twigs
- ✓ Branches (under 10cm thick)
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Shrub prunings
- ✓ Weeds
- ✓ Flowers



## NO



- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Food scraps
- ✗ Tree stumps or branches thicker than 10cm
- ✗ Tree roots
- ✗ Soil, rock or building materials
- ✗ Treated timber and fence palings
- ✗ Plant pots or garden equipment

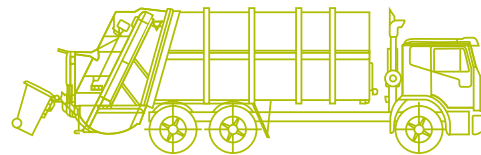


# White Goods Recycling and Household Clean-Up



## What happens to it?

White Goods are taken away for metal recycling and made into products like cars and steel cans.



## Top tips

- ★ Wrap and label sharp or dangerous items like mirrors and glass
- ★ Keep it to 2 cubic metres per booking – this is up to a small box trailer load
- ★ Book your clean-up collection first, then separate white goods from household items and put it out the night before
- ★ Put small items into containers – no loose materials will be collected

## Did you know?

You can book a White Goods or Household Clean-Up by calling **9265 9333**. Before you do, check with your Building Manager or Body Corporate to find out where the goods should be placed and ask if it's up to you to make the booking.



## Handy contacts

- ★ For the items we can't recycle – take them to a Waste Management Centre. Find your nearest centre at [www.wsn.com.au](http://www.wsn.com.au) or call **1300 065 116**
- ★ **Hazardous Chemicals** – find out how to dispose of chemicals, paints, and even fluorescent tubes. Call the Environment Line on **131 555**
- ★ **Unwanted Medication** – find out how to dispose of your out-of-date medicines. Go to [www.returnedmed.com.au](http://www.returnedmed.com.au) or any pharmacy
- ★ **Car Parts and Metals** – look in the Yellow Pages for your nearest Scrap Metal Recycler

## YES



- ✓ Whitegoods (collected separately for metal recycling) with doors removed for safety reasons – refrigerators, washing machines etc.
  - ✓ Furniture – lounges, rugs, mattresses etc.
  - ✓ Appliances – televisions, computers, radios, toasters, heaters etc.
- (Except for white goods, all items must be less than 1.5m or 100kg)**



## NO



- ✗ Gas cylinders and vehicle batteries
- ✗ Liquid wastes including motor/cooking oil
- ✗ Carpet and floor tiles
- ✗ Tyres and car parts
- ✗ Building and demolition materials
- ✗ Wooden crates and pallets



# Keeping your Neighbourhood Clean and Tidy

## What happens every day

Each day, our Cleansing Team works hard to remove spills, debris, leaves, litter and dumped material from our roads, laneways and footpaths. You'll see us manually sweep as well use machines to scrub, sweep and even steam-clean the streets of your neighbourhood. Street litter bins and ashtrays are emptied and bill posters, syringes, abandoned items and graffiti are removed.

Even though we're out there daily, there are times when we might miss something. This is where you can help.



Footway sweeper

## Report

- ★ **illegal dumps** by calling **9265 9333**
- ★ **abandoned shopping trolleys** by calling the Trolley Trackers hotline on Freephone **1800 641 497**. They'll remove it within 24 hours
- ★ **graffiti** or **bill poster** advertising by calling **9265 9333**
- ★ **syringes** by calling the Needle Cleanup Hotline on Freephone **1800 633 353**.



Graffiti removal

If you're disposing of syringes and needles at collection points like public hospitals, and participating health centres and pharmacies, they need to be in a strong, puncture resistant container like an Australian Standard Sharps container.

## Did you know

Some actions are illegal and can result in heavy fines. These are:

- ★ Household items left on the street – they're classed as illegal dumping if you haven't booked a collection
- ★ Littering – litter attracts vermin and often ends up in stormwater drains and pollutes the harbour and waterways. Even dropping a cigarette butt can lead to a \$200 fine
- ★ Sweeping leaves or litter from a private property onto the street
- ★ Graffiti and bill poster advertising
- ★ Putting residential and commercial waste in street litter bins – they're for public use only



Street cleaner



Help us keep your neighbourhood clean and tidy by reporting anything that might need to be cleaned or removed.





## Community Gardens

We support 10 community gardens. If you're short of garden space in your home, our gardens are a perfect place for you to grow your own fruit and vegetables and meet others in your local community.



Community garden



Find out more about our **FREE** workshops and our community gardens at [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste/WhatYouCanDo](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste/WhatYouCanDo) or call **9265 9333** and ask to speak to the Waste Education Team

## The Watershed

The City of Sydney and Marrickville Council have partnered to support The Watershed – a sustainability resource centre in Newtown. It's a place where you can drop in and talk to knowledgeable staff about how to reduce your waste or get other green advice. It also offers free workshops as part of the Urban Sustainability Workshop Series.

Drop into The Watershed at 218 King Street, Newtown or find out more at [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/environment)

### And finally.....

**Remember the four steps to keep waste out of landfill**

#### 1. Avoid

- ★ Buy things that last and that can be reused
- ★ Hire or borrow things you use infrequently

#### 2. Reduce

- ★ Buy things with little or no packaging
- ★ Buy only what you need
- ★ Compost or worm farm

## Composting and Worm Farming

Composting and worm farming is reusing organic waste. It's just another way we can recover resources easily.

Our monthly 'hands-on' workshops are popular with both first-timers and those looking for tips on how to improve their existing compost bins and worm farms. If you're a City of Sydney resident, you'll get a free compost bin or worm farm to take home.

**"I got home from the workshop and set up my bin straight away. I was surprised to find it was so easy"** – Steve, City of Sydney resident

**"The workshop was a great opportunity for me to ask questions and find out what others are doing"**

– Melissa, City of Sydney resident



## 3. Reuse

- ★ Repair what you can
- ★ Buy things made out of recycled content and shop at charity shops
- ★ Use Free-cycle (a free reuse website) [www.freecycle.org/groups/australia](http://www.freecycle.org/groups/australia)

## 4. Recycle

- ★ Refer to this guide before you throw something away

### Did you know?

Our Waste Education Team also run special programs for

- ★ School children
- ★ Ethnic communities
- ★ Local businesses
- ★ Visitors to our city

Ask how we can help your community by calling **9265 9333**.