



Standardised kerbside recycling

Questions and answers

Question	Answer
What is changing?	<p>From 1 February, materials collected from households for recycling will be standardised across New Zealand.</p> <p>Only these things can be recycled from home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic bottles, trays and containers numbered 1, 2 and 5 only• Food and drink tins and cans• Paper and cardboard• Glass bottles and jars
Why are these changes happening?	<p>Collecting the same materials in kerbside recycling services will make it easier for everyone to put items in the right bin no matter where they are in New Zealand.</p> <p>It will also help businesses to design and manufacture packaging they know can be recycled from anywhere in the country.</p> <p>The changes will also help recycling facilities by improving the quality of the materials they receive, so they can recycle more.</p>
How should I prepare my items for recycling?	Take off the lids, rinse out any dirty items, and put your containers out for recycling.
What should I do with my lids?	Please keep them out of your household recycling. Some drop-off recycling centres accept lids. See your local council for details.
Why can't I recycle lids from home?	Lids are too small to be separated by machinery at recycling plants. Sorting machinery can also mistake flat lids for paper, so they contaminate paper recycling.
How well do I need to rinse my recycling?	A quick scrub out in cold water is enough. You could rinse your recycling when you're doing your dishes.

Do I need to take the labels off my cans and containers before recycling?	No, you don't need to do that for most items. At the processing facility there is machinery that removes labels.
My council used to collect foil, aerosols, soft plastics, expanded polystyrene and plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7. Why can't I recycle these from home?	These materials are hard to sort or recycle. While they are collected from kerbside recycling bins in some areas, they can cause problems with equipment at the recycling centre and usually end up in landfill or contaminating other recyclable products.
Where can I take these products?	Just because an item is not accepted for recycling at kerbside does not mean it cannot be recycled at all. You can find a list of recycling drop-off centres on our website.
Should I take the lids off my food tins?	Either leave the lid attached and fold it into the can, or place removed lids inside the can and squeeze the can shut securely.
Are aerosols a health and safety hazard?	When not completely empty, aerosols can explode under pressure and cause fires at recycling facilities. Some aerosols contain poisonous contents such as insecticides and automotive sprays. Staff at recycling facilities may be exposed to these contents when aerosols are damaged or crushed for baling.
Why can't I put pizza boxes, tissues and paper towels in my food scraps bin?	Empty pizza boxes can be placed in recycling. Paper and cardboard items can introduce pollutants into soil such as inks that include heavy metals and/or microplastics.
What happens to my recycling?	Visit www.environment.govt.nz/recycle for detailed information on what happens to your recycling.