

Cardboard Recycling

Cardboard is made from thick paper stock. Australia currently uses around 4 million tonnes of paper and cardboard – equivalent to 183 000 large semi-trailers - but only recycles about half of that¹.

Reducing cardboard use

Much cardboard is used in packaging – try to choose products with minimal overall packaging. Re-use cardboard boxes where possible before recycling.

If you buy cardboard products, ask your supplier for options that use recycled content, contain fewer materials and/or can be returned for re-use.

Why recycle cardboard?

When cardboard breaks down in landfill it creates methane, a major greenhouse gas with the global warming capacity 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Cardboard is one of the easiest and most environmentally effective materials to recycle since the fibre in cardboard has already been processed. Therefore making cardboard products from recycled material, rather than virgin fibre, saves not only trees, but also large amounts of water (up to 99% less) and energy (up to 50% less). Manufacturing from recycled material also produces up to 90% less by-products such as chemical wastes.

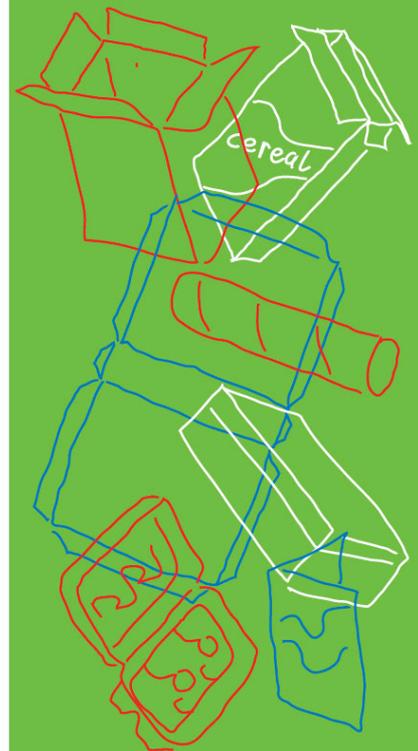
For these reasons, it is important to recycle your cardboard and whenever possible to buy paper and cardboard products with recycled content. For each kilogram of cardboard recycled, you save up to one kilogram of greenhouse gases.



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Factsheet



How do you recycle computers, corks, cartridges and cans?

For information on council services and drop-off locations in your area... visit



**RecyclingNearYou
.com.au**

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or call



**RECYCLING HOTLINE
1300 733 712**

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How to recycle cardboard

Most local councils now collect household cardboard products for recycling in their kerbside collection. This includes greeting cards, cereal boxes, cardboard packaging and boxes, manila folders, foil and toilet rolls, and egg cartons. Pizza boxes may be accepted in council collections. Check with your council first and if they do accept pizza boxes make sure you remove food chunks.

Keep cardboard recycling clean of food scraps, polystyrene and plastic, which can contaminate the process of recycling. Cardboard that has been contaminated with food scraps can be recycled using a worm farm, bokashi bucket or compost heap – your compost heap and worms will love it!

Wax-coated cardboard, like some fruit boxes, cannot be recycled, dispose of this in your garbage bin.

To confirm your council services, and to find cardboard drop-off locations in your local area, visit RecyclingNearYou.com.au

What happens to the cardboard?

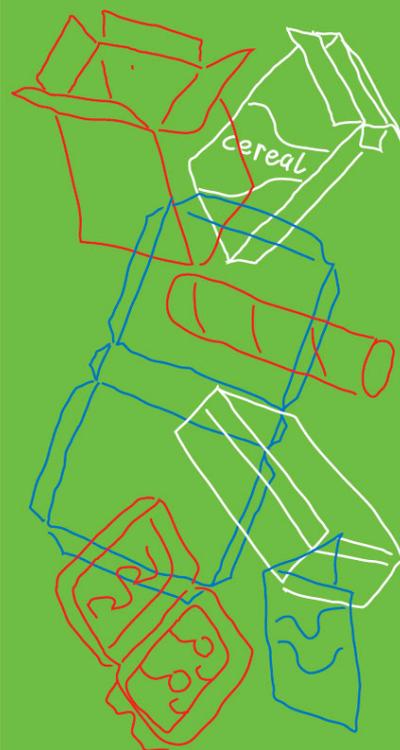
Cardboard can be recycled along with paper and is remade into many different kinds of paper products. Every time paper is processed the individual fibres become weaker, limiting the number of times it can be recycled – usually up to eight times. The lowest grade of recycled paper goes into cardboard products.

More than 80% of Australia's paper and cardboard packaging is made from recycled fibre. Recycled cardboard can also be made into sound-proofing material, insulation and even furniture.

Paper that has been recycled as many times as the fibres will allow is turned into compost and breaks down naturally.

More information

Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council (a3p.asn.au)
Sustainability Victoria (sustainability.vic.gov.au)
Recycle At Work WA (recycleatwork.com.au)
Waste Service NSW¹ (wasteservice.nsw.gov.au)



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