

BUILD YOUR OWN

# RECYCLE RIGHT KIT



Education resource

## Recycle Right Kits and Recycling Education during Covid.

City of Casey offers free recycling and composting education sessions for kindergarten teachers to learn more about waste and recycling in the City of Casey. These sessions are held each year, and are a valuable way to stay updated with what can and can't be recycled, as well as other waste disposal options. Attendance at these events also meant that participants were able to borrow our Recycle Right kits, which were borrowed from and returned to Bunjil Place.

Due to Covid restrictions, we are currently unable to lend out the existing Recycle Right kits that we have. It is also likely we will not be able to access Bunjil Place regularly for a long time to come, so moving kits around for borrowing and returns is not going to be possible.

So in the short to medium term, we're suggesting kindergartens put together their own kits for use. This way you can use it as much as you like, and store for use later. The majority of items in the kit were provided from household packaging by Casey staff, so it shouldn't be difficult to collect items from staff and parents at the kinder.

### What to include?

Ensure all items are thoroughly clean, dry and free from any potential hazards eg: sharp edges. Masking tape could be used to cover the edges on steel and aluminium tins, but best not to put their lids in the kit.

Ideally include at least 2 representatives from each material type in your kit (eg two cardboard items, three paper items, etc).

Attached is a table with lists of suggested items, which bin they would go in, and further notes on how these items could be avoided or reused.

Once children understand what goes into which bin, they can play sorting games and sorting relays. There could be challenges creating art or dressups from extra pieces of packaging etc. Children could learn the difference between the metals with magnets. Many items could hold potting mix and seeds.

Please note that any artwork created where there are mixed materials stuck together need to be disposed of in the rubbish bin, even though all items are individually recyclable. Once they're all stuck together they'll be removed as rubbish at the sorting facility, or if they get missed, they'll contaminate other collected materials.

If you have any queries, please contact the Waste Education team on [eduwaste@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:eduwaste@casey.vic.gov.au)



Item	How to dispose of it	Extra information
<b>Hard Plastics</b>	Most household hard plastics can go into the recycling bin if they have the number 1 – 5 shown in the recycling triangle. Plastic bottles and containers need to be clean and dry with lids removed. The lids need to go into the rubbish bin.	Plastics are made from petroleum oil that has been mined from the earth. Oil is not a renewable resource so avoiding single use plastics is the best option and making sure any plastics used are recycled correctly.
Plastic milk bottle - 1, 2 or 3L Plastic (1) PET or (2) HDPE	Bottle in Recycling bin Lid in Rubbish bin	Empty and clean Can you reuse the lid for craft or games? You can cut the bottle and make a scoop for use in the sandpit or for gardening or water play. You could make hanging pots with these containers.
Plastic Juice bottle	Bottle in Recycling bin Lid in Rubbish bin	Empty and clean Can you reuse the lid for craft or games? Cut off the bottom and make a terrarium or mini greenhouse?
Berry containers	Recycling bin	You can use these for planting and raising seedlings
Biscuit trays	Recycling bin	The softest of the 'hard' plastics that can go into the recycling bin
Take away food container rectangle or round	Recycling bin	Wash these containers. There are great for reuse as food containers or storage. How else could we avoid these or reuse them?
Plastic or paper Straw	Rubbish bin	Do we need to use straws in our drinks? Can we go without straws? <a href="https://www.strawnomore.org/">https://www.strawnomore.org/</a>
Assorted single use drink bottles water, pop top and soft drink	Bottle in Recycling bin Lid in Rubbish bin	By using a reusable drink bottle you can reduce plastic waste Discuss that water is the healthier option
Shampoo/conditioner bottle, hand soap pump or detergent bottle	Bottle Recycle, Lid, Pump or spray in Rubbish bin	Can you refill these bottles or avoid them by using bars of soap that are plastic free?
Large yoghurt or icecream plastic tub	Recycling bin	Plastic containers with lids are great to store food or other items
Yoghurt/fruit mush single serve multi pack tubs (snap apart ones)	Rubbish bin	These tubs are plastic number 6, polystyrene and cannot be recycled. Option to buy in bulk and fill your reusable container. These can be used for seedling pots.

Black plastic: meat tray, plant pot etc	Rubbish bin	Black plastic cannot be recycled, reuse for art or gardening, otherwise place into rubbish bin.
Plastic cutlery	Rubbish bin	Do you need these? Can you take your own and wash and reuse? Can students decorate a small pencil case or similar pouch to keep their own cutlery with them when out?
Bread tags	Rubbish bin	Too small to be recycled, Plastic needs to be at least 5cm to be recycled. Consider collecting for <a href="#">Breadtags for wheelchairs</a> Some bread companies are moving to cardboard tags, so look out for those. The tiny cardboard tags can be buried or composted.
Expanded Polystyrene/Styrofoam Traditionally white, used in packaging. Black or white trays sometimes used for meat/clingwrapped produce. Polystyrene cups and clamshells for takeaway foods	Rubbish bin	Expanded polystyrene cannot be recycled in kerbside bins. If you have a lot of clean polystyrene, it can be taken to specialised recyclers. Polystyrene is easily broken up and can end up everywhere, so take care when using it to reduce mess. <a href="#">Note that some single use polystyrene will be banned by Feb 2023.</a>
Melamine - plate or bowl	Rubbish bin	Melamine plastic is not recyclable
<b>Soft plastics</b>	Check <a href="#">REDcycle</a> website for more information of what items are accepted.	Soft plastics do not go into the recycling bin, they can be collected and returned to major supermarkets for recycling
Plastic shopping bag	Rubbish bin or in-store soft plastic recycling (only if clean and dry)	You can replace the need for plastic shopping bags by taking your re-useable bags to store or taking items in a box. If you do have bags try to find a way to reuse them before throwing them away. Consider making <a href="#">Boomerang Bags</a> as a community.
Biscuit package outer bag	Rubbish bin or in-store soft plastic recycling (only if clean and dry)	If you can make your own snacks from scratch you can save extra packet waste.
Bread bag	Rubbish bin or in-store soft plastic recycling (only if clean and dry)	Bread bags can be very useful to reuse for food storage, as a bin liner, to store your soft plastics to return to store or to take on walks to pick up rubbish. You can also ask the bakery to put your bread in a reusable bag

Single serve food wrappers, muesli bar, chip packet, silver lined plastic	Rubbish bin or in-store soft plastic recycling (only if clean and dry)	Can you avoid food in single wrapped packets? Could you just put snacks in your lunch box or a container? Usually healthier foods come without packaging eg fruit and vegetables.
Glad wrap	Rubbish bin or in-store soft plastic recycling (only if clean and dry)	By using a reusable container or beeswax wrap you can avoid using cling wrap
Zip lock bag	Rubbish bin or in-store soft plastic recycling (only if clean and dry)	By using a reusable container you can avoid these bags. You can wash and reuse the ones you have rather than just using them once.
Squeezy pouch yoghurt	Rubbish bin	Not recyclable in kerbside bins, a better alternative is to put your yoghurt in reusable tubs. It also works out cheaper this way.
<b>Glass</b>	Only glass that held food or drink is recyclable in kerbside council bins.	Glass is made from melted sand, soda ash and limestone. Glass can be recycled back into new glass packaging, or downcycled for use as road base.
Glass bottle - clear, brown or green Eg: sauce, olive oil, soft drink	Recycling bin	Any glass bottle that contained food or drink when purchased can be recycled. Glass needs to be clean and dry before recycling. Remove the lid. Metal lids and plastic lids over 5cm diameter can go into the recycling bin. Plastic lids under 5cm go into the rubbish bin, unless used for crafts.
Glass jar eg, spreads, jam, sauces	Recycling bin	Any glass jar that held food or drink when purchased can be recycled. Glass needs to be clean and dry before recycling. Remove the lid and put into recycling separately. You can reuse glass jars for storing craft items, holding other food, saving for making jam and sauce etc,
Drinking Glass Pyrex Mirror/window glass Picture frame glass.	Rubbish bin	Only glass that came purchased with food or drink can be recycled. Drinking glasses, Pyrex, mirror and window glass cannot go in the recycling bin.  Wrap carefully and then place in the rubbish bin.

<b>Paper</b>	Most paper and cardboard materials are recyclable. Paper and cardboard that has been used for art and has large amounts of glue, sticky tape or heavy paint would no longer be recyclable.	Paper & cardboard is made from wood pulp, which comes from cutting down and processing trees. By reducing, reusing and recycling paper, as well as buying recycled paper, we are reducing the amount of trees cut down. Recycled office paper, toilet paper, tissues and paper towel are all readily available.
Sheets of paper	Recycling bin	Have you used both sides? Can you reuse? Plain paper can also go into your compost system.
Cardboard packaging - toy box, tissue box, food packaging	Recycling bin	Great to use for cardboard construction and craft Remove any ties or plastic first and place these in the rubbish bin.
Toilet and paper towel inner cardboard roll	Recycling bin	Great to use for cardboard construction and craft
Brown paper bag	Recycling bin	Can you reuse again? Or reuse for food, seed saving, collecting items, Can be added to compost system.
Catalogue	Recycling bin	You can use for art and craft activities or to avoid make a "No Junk Mail Sticker" for your letterbox.
Envelope	Recycling bin	If it has a see through window it can still be recycled.
Newspaper	Recycling bin	Potential reuse for art and craft purposes. Newspaper can be added to composting systems
Paper shopping bag with handles	Recycling bin	Potential for reuse as a bag, decorate as a gift bag.
Egg Carton	Recycling bin	Many art and craft opportunities with these, as well as using for seedling pots. Can also be added to composting systems.
Paper towel	Rubbish bin (or compostable)	You could add to composting systems PROVIDED there are no antibacterial products on them, or harsh cleaning products. Using washable towels and cloths can be a better solution.
Tissues	Rubbish bin	When at home, children could use a handkerchief.

Milk or juice cardboard carton without lid	Rubbish bin	These are made from many layers of plastic and paper and so cannot be separated for recycling. Cut off the top to create a plant pot or use for craft purposes.
Milk or juice carton with screw on lid (could be cardboard or Tetrapak eg a UHT milk container) Prima/juice box	Rubbish bin	These are made from many layers of cardboard and plastic, or cardboard, plastic and aluminium and so cannot be separated for recycling. Cut off the top to create a plant pot or use for craft purposes. Reusable drink bottles container water will reduce the need for fruit juices/drinks.
Hot chocolate/chai tea cylinder container. Pringle (or similar) container	Rubbish bin	These are made from many layers of cardboard and plastic, or cardboard, plastic and aluminium, plus a steel base and plastic lid and so cannot be separated for recycling. Re-use for storage purposes
Disposable take away Coffee cup & lid	Rubbish bin	Mixed materials of paper and plastic and not recyclable. The lids are plastic number 6 and also not recyclable. You can take a reusable coffee cup or sit in and drink from a real cup at the café.
<b>Steel</b>		Steel products are made from iron ore that has been mined from under the ground. It is an incredible resource-intensive process. Recycling steel reduces this impact. Steel is a non renewable resource and is easily recycled.
Small lidded tin (eg mints, gum)	Recycling bin	Can be reused for storing small items
Steel can (eg tuna, baked beans, tinned tomatoes)	Recycling bin	Soften any sharp edges with masking tape (if you are reusing). Holes can be hammered into the base for re-use as a planter. Decorative patterns with holes can make a nice candle holder.
Metal lids	Recycling bin	Any size metal lids can go into the recycling bin loose
<b>Aluminium</b>		Like steel, Aluminium is mined from under the ground and is mined and refined via a very energy intensive process. Recycling Aluminium reduces this impact. Aluminium can be recycled indefinitely
Aerosol can eg deodorant	Recycling bin	Needs to be completely empty, including the propellant gas.

Drink can	Recycling bin	Can easily be squashed to take up less room in the recycling bin.
Aluminium cooking foil	Recycling bin	Scrunch into a ball to recycle. Needs to be around cricket ball sized. Save small pieces and then wrap in bigger pieces.
Foil cooking tray	Recycling bin	Needs food removed first before placing in recycling dry. Can be washed and reused or scrunch into a ball to recycle.
<b>Other</b>		These are common household items that do not fit into other criteria's
Toys	Rubbish bin/e-waste disposal (see below for details on e-waste).	Rubbish bin if no longer useable or damaged. Electronic toys need to have batteries removed and disposed of via e-waste collections. If the toy is still in good condition, consider passing on to someone else or donating.
Household batteries	<b>Do not belong in any Council kerbside bin.</b> Separate collection at Casey Customer Service, Aldi & Woolworths supermarkets, Officeworks or a transfer station	Batteries contain toxic chemicals that can damage the environment and are a fire hazard in trucks and recycling centres. Store batteries safely and drop to a collection point. You can get rechargeable batteries to reduce the batteries you use.
E – Waste (Electronic Waste) ie Any electrical item that has a battery or a cord	<b>Do not belong in any Council kerbside bin.</b> Separate collection at the Transfer station or via hard waste collections (available only to household and Casey run kindergartens)	E waste has valuable metals inside that can be recovered and reused, as well as other nasties that are best disposed of properly. Remove any batteries and dispose of separately via battery collection points. Take e-waste to transfer stations for free or add to hard waste collection. Mobile phones can be sent to the <a href="#">Zoo's mobilemuster</a> program
Food and plant material (this can be represented with real food scraps or toy/fake food items – meat, vegetables, fruit as an example of food waste, fake flowers or foliage)	Food and garden bin if available, or composting systems.  If both are not available options then food and garden waste go into the Rubbish bin, not the Recycling bin.	Avoiding food waste is always the priority. Can you compost the food waste at home or at the kinder? Could you offer food scraps to parents or on <a href="#">Sharewaste?</a> Food waste when it breaks down in landfill releases harmful methane gases. Food waste that is composted improves soil to grow more food.
Ceramic crockery	Rubbish bin	If broken it goes in the rubbish bin, ceramic is not recyclable. If still useable you could donate it.
Piece of Clothing -T-shirt or sock, textiles	Rubbish bin	Unusable clothing goes in the rubbish bin. If still in wearable condition donate or pass on to someone else. Reuse for craft, cleaning uses, sock puppets, no sew t-shirt bags etc