

# Handy Hints to Better Recycling

## Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group

### Handy Hints to Better Recycling

More than ever before it is important that we all do our bit to not only recycle as much as possible, but to recycle in a way that assists the processors to operate as efficiently as possible. By doing this we can help the Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's, known as Murfs) to recovery more and extend the life of our landfills.

Here are some ways you can help.

Plastic lids are something that continues to confuse some people. If the lids are large, such as from a peanut butter jar, then they can go in the recycling on their own or attached. The same goes for metal lids on glass jars.

Smaller plastic lids that are on drink bottles should be screwed back onto the bottle. Obviously, it is important that the bottle is empty. Un-attached lids are too small for recycling machinery and cannot be processed. You can put plastic detached lids in your general waste bin. It also helps if you can squeeze a bit of the air out of the bottle before putting the lid back on. This does two things: It gives you more room in your kerbside recycling bin and helps avoid compressed cubes of baled plastic breaking open due to air expansion.

Aluminium foil can easily be recycled. Make sure that it is clean, just a wipe usually does the trick. Next ball it up and save it somewhere such as in a coffee cup. Continue to add more foil to the ball which will grow and grow. When it is the size of a tennis ball you can put it in your recycling bin.

A lot of meat these days comes in rigid plastic tubs. These are mostly recyclable. Check the container for a number in the triangle, if it has a number 1 - 6 then it can be recycled, if there is no triangle or it has number 7 then it could be a composite material and goes in the waste bin. Make sure that you peel the soft film from the top, a little bit stuck to the rim is okay. Remove any absorbent pads, they go in the waste bin. Generally, you don't need to wash your recyclables, but rinsing meat trays is a good idea to prevent odours and remove any residual fluid.

Polystyrene is not recyclable through your kerbside bin, even if it has the triangle number symbol on it. Provided that your polystyrene is clean, then there are a small number of locations in the Loddon Mallee Region where you can take it to be recycled. These can be found by downloading the Loddon Mallee Waste App.

Broken drinking glasses are another item that some people mistakenly put in their recycling bin. This type of glass has undergone a manufacturing process and become 'toughened'. Therefore, it melts at a different temperature to glass bottles and jars, so contaminates the recycling stream. Wrap broken glasses up in paper in place in the waste bin. Window glass should also be treated this way.

A final tip is to never place you recycling in plastic bags. The soft plastics take extra time to open on the sorting line, causing inefficiency and they can jam the machinery which delays the whole process and can cause damage.

While this is just an overview, there are many more items that can cause confusion. For a complete list of items and how to dispose of them correctly, you can download the free Loddon Mallee Waste App. Go to your app store and search "Loddon Mallee".

For further information on recycling in your region you can visit the LMWRRG website or contact Project Officer Trinity Mawson on 0407 738 968.

*Caring for our environment by reducing waste to landfill.*

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