



# Recycling in the Toowoomba Region

There is very little that needs to be thrown in your red-lidded (garbage) bin to end up in land fill. [Recycling Near You](#) is worth checking if a solution to your household waste can't be found below.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST!

**Reducing your waste** is a much better option than recycling. Buy in bulk, refuse extra packaging – do what you can to reduce the waste stream. Second best is to **reuse old containers and packages** if you can. If you can't **reduce** or **reuse**, then recycling is the way to go.

## Your household recycle bin

**Many items** can be recycled through your yellow-lidded recycle bin. To note, however:

- Glass from broken recyclable bottles or jars can't be recycled as it can't be automatically sorted and processed.
- Any recyclables disposed of in plastic bags will be rejected and landfilled.
- Liquids and oils (e.g. cooking, motor vehicle, etc.) will contaminate a load and cause it to be landfilled. (Take these to a local Waste Management site, e.g. at O'Mara's Rd or Kleinton)
- Batteries, particularly lithium ion types, can and do start fires in trucks and facilities.
- Used nappies and disposable wipes are a biological hazard to waste management workers.



## Your green waste bin

Garden prunings, lawn clippings and branches up to 15cm diameter and 50cm length are among the items you can place in this bin. [More details.](#)



## Waste management facilities (formerly 'land fill' or 'dump')

The facility at 270 O'Mara Rd, Wellcamp is now Toowoomba's main waste facility, though there are [smaller ones](#) around the region. Many materials can be recycled here, including clean cardboard cartons and polystyrene packing. Items that can be reused are collected at the facility and sold through the Reviva Re-Use Shop onsite (O'Mara's Rd and Kleinton).

## Hazardous material

For ways to dispose of materials like paint tins, oil, pesticides and ash, see the relevant page on the [Toowoomba Regional Council website](#). Leftover paint can be deposited at Toowoomba Cleanaway Depot, 27-35 Wilkinson Street, Toowoomba as part of the [paint back program](#).

## Food scraps

According to [Planet Ark](#), food waste makes up over one-third (35%) of household waste. When food ends up in landfill, it becomes compacted and rots in the absence of oxygen, producing methane, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. What can you do?

- Start a [compost bin](#) or [worm farm](#) and provide yourself with fantastic garden fertiliser as well as help save the planet!
- Go to the [ShareWaste](#) website and search '4350': here you can link up with Toowoomba people who have compostable waste to share or who can take your compostable waste.

## Used inkjet and toner cartridges

Can be deposited at [Officeworks](#) (Hume Street) and [Cartridge World](#) (cnr Long & Ruthven Sts).

## 'Scrunchable' (soft) plastics **NOTE: As of 2023, this program is suspended.**

From bread bags and biscuit packets to glad wrap and bubble wrap, [REDcycle](#) can take care of it. Collect this material and place it in the RedCycle bins at the front of most [Woolworths and Coles stores](#).



## Batteries

[Battery World](#) (James St), [Officeworks](#) (Hume Street), [Bunnings](#) and [Aldi supermarkets](#) have special bins for non-rechargeable, standard household size batteries. [Absolute Batteries](#) (61 Clifford St) will take any kind of batteries for recycling.

**Lithium batteries** (e.g. from laptops, mobile phones & power tools)

[Greater Toowoomba Waste Management Facility](#) (O'Mara's Rd), [Officeworks](#) (Hume Street) and [Absolute Batteries](#) (61 Clifford St) all accept these batteries.

## Car batteries

These can be taken to [Absolute Batteries](#) (61 Clifford St), [Super Cheap Auto](#) (Ruthven St), [Battery World](#) (James St), [RepcO](#) (Herries St), and [Century Yuasa](#) (Water St).

## Computers, TVs and accessories

E-waste is accepted at [Officeworks](#) and the [Greater Toowoomba, Kleinton and Greenmount Waste Management Facilities](#). This includes TVs, HiFi equipment, games consoles, mobile phones, laptops, PCs, printers and more.

## Mobile phones

Australia Post and JB HiFi outlets stock reply-paid postage satchels, but old phones can also be dropped at many [Mobile Muster](#) locations including Optus, Telstra & Vodaphone stores, most battery retailers, Office Works, USQ – Green Hub and Toowoomba Regional Council.

## Electrical appliances & whitegoods

Small appliances can be taken to the [Greater Toowoomba Waste Management Facility](#) (O'Mara's Rd). Larger whitegoods can be accepted by [Darling Downs Metals](#) (Lot 3 Allen Court, Toowoomba).

## Light bulbs

There are currently no free recycling options for domestic light bulbs in the Toowoomba region. The Toowoomba Regional Council advises that domestic light globes of all kinds can be wrapped in paper and disposed of in the garbage (red-lidded) bin. [Ikea](#) (in its [Brisbane stores](#)) offers in-store recycling of LED and fluorescent bulbs. [Lamp Recyclers](#) offers recycling of bulbs for a fee. [EcoCycle](#) offers recycling of fluorescent lamp & mercury lighting waste for businesses.

## Oral care & beauty products, mailing satchels & some coffee capsules

[Terracycle](#) offers free recycling options for various hard-to-recycle items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, express post/parcel post mailing bags and some capsules/pods from coffee machines. Some dentists offer collection of oral products for recycling.

## Take-away coffee cups

Prevention is better than cure! Consider either sitting in a café and having your coffee in a (washable, reusable) ceramic cup, or using a 'keep cup' (reusable coffee mug). For normal take-away coffee cups, however, lids can be placed in your yellow-lidded bin and the cups can be recycled at 7-Eleven stores.

## Bread tags and plastic bottle tops

Bread tags can be posted to [Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs](#) (P.O. Box 1164, Kensington Gardens, SA 5068) or taken to the Centre for Play Therapy (Unit 5, 206 Margaret St, Toowoomba) or Learning Pathways Childcare Centre and Kindergarten (49A Wallace St, Toowoomba). Bottle tops (e.g. milk bottle tops) currently don't seem to be able to be recycled in Queensland - see [Lids for Kids](#).

**Containers for Change** Several organisations [around Toowoomba](#) are collection stations for this recycling program. Each eligible container is worth 10c. Could be a fundraiser for your Student Council or P&C.

***Let's make sure we have... enough for all forever!***

