

STEPS FOR managing YOUR WASTE



STEP 1 THINK BEFORE YOU BUY

A 'green conscience' and choosing eco-friendly products when you shop is important to reduce unnecessary waste. Remember It is your responsibility to safely dispose of any waste you end up with. When shopping ask yourself:

- Can I buy in bulk and save on excess packaging?
- Can I re-use any of the wrapping or containers?
- Can the packaging material be easily recycled?
- Is the packaging made from recovered materials?

STEP 2 SEPARATE AT SOURCE

All waste should be identified for recycling and recovery or not. Set up a simple system to separate your recyclables from general waste or non-recyclables. Organic waste like fruit and veggie peels should also not be thrown away but kept aside for composting.

Why can some products not be recycled?

Although it is changing fast, many products are 'designed for the dump', and not with recycling in mind. This often makes it difficult and expensive to easily recover their materials.

Important: Always clean and dry items for recycling. Flatten cardboard boxes, plastic containers, tin cans and PET bottles as this reduces volume and increases space in your recycling bin.

Look out for eco-labels: Get to know packaging labels (e.g. plastic polylogos) that identify materials suitable for recycling.

Did You Know?

In an average middle-income household 70% of waste generated can easily be recycled.

STEP 3 CORRECTLY DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE



**Hazardous
waste**

Did You Know?

By law the holder of any waste is the one responsible for safely disposing of it.

What is hazardous waste?

Any waste that poses an immediate or potential threat should NEVER be put in the waste bin, toilet or down any drain but rather safely and correctly disposed of. Types of hazardous waste include:

- **CHEMICAL:** paint, solvents, acids or motor oils (and their used tins or containers)
- **MEDICAL:** used swabs, plasters, bandages, bio-waste, condoms & syringes
- **eWASTE:** batteries, CFLs and printer cartridges

Why are batteries & CFLs hazardous?

Batteries and compact fluorescent lights (CFL) contain toxic heavy metals like mercury that are poisonous. It is especially important to keep these items from breaking or leaking.

Where should hazardous waste be disposed of?

Either take 'haz' waste to a recognised drop off site equipped to handle it or have it collected from your home by a professional.

Collection points for safe disposal of CFLs and batteries can be found at many retail stores including Pick 'n Pay and Woolworths

For other options visit www.mywaste.co.za, or the ROSE foundation at www.rosefoundation.org.za

STEP 4 COMPOST YOUR ORGANIC WASTE

Organic matter should be put aside to make nutritious garden compost or plant fertilizer. Worm farms are a great way to deal with food waste without causing odours or attracting pests.

STEP 5 SET ASIDE FOR COLLECTION

Place your recyclables ready for collection by the municipal waste contractor (if the service is operating in your area), either in the special bin or clear bag provided. Or take them yourself to the nearest recycling drop-off site.

OUR COMMITMENT

Promoting recycling and materials recovery is part of the Garden Cities commitment to responsible residential property development in Cape Town. We encourage urban communities to live with a lighter environmental footprint.

GREENING GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS

This brochure is part of a greening guide series written especially for Garden Cities homeowners. For the full guide and more resources visit our website: www.gardencities.co.za

DID YOU KNOW?

In cities of the future, no landfill sites will operate. All waste materials will be recovered and recycled for re-use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For collection and disposal of household waste visit www.mywaste.co.za

For City of Cape Town inquiries and drop-off sites: Tel 021 442 8136 or contact the call centre on 0860 103 089

For the City's Solid Waste programs visit www.capetown.gov.za/en/Solidwaste2



no!

DON'T RECYCLE

- Composites e.g. laminated foil wrappers
- Thin plastic film e.g. clingwrap
- Toothpaste tubes
- Cigarette butts & braai ash
- Waxed, oily or greasy paper
- Contaminated items e.g. nappies, toilet tissue
- Hazardous items

DO RECYCLE

- Paper:** printer paper, news-paper, magazines, junk mail, envelopes, cardboard etc.
- Glass:** jars & bottles
- Plastic:** tubs, trays, bottles, & dispensers
- Metal:** tins, cans & thick foil,
- Tetrapak:** longlife cartons

yes!

COMPOST

- Raw organic matter e.g. veggie trimmings, egg shells & fruit peels
- Tea bags, coffee grounds & filters
- Moistened paper
- Leaves, & grass clippings

Recycling

Garden Cities 2013

NATURE KNOWS NO WASTE

In nature everything is valued and nothing is wasted. Everything that is discarded by any organism in the natural world becomes the food or nutrient for another life cycle on Earth.

MATERIALS RECOVERY

Waste materials are resources. Everything we throw away can be recovered and made into something else useful. At the very least waste should be safely disposed of without harmful effects to people or nature.