



Cardboard Recycling

More than 80% of Australia's paper and cardboard packaging is made from recycled fibre. The lowest grade of recycled paper goes into cardboard products.

Reducing Cardboard Use

Large quantities of cardboard are used in packaging so it's important to 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 easily and effectively recycled

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.

How to Recycle Cardboard

Most local councils 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, clean pizza boxes may be accepted (check with your council first and if they do accept pizza boxes make sure you remove food chunks).



Cardboard greeting cards can be recycled with the rest of your paper and cardboard

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, is not suitable for recycling but it can be effectively composted, thus reducing methane production.

To confirm your council services, and to find cardboard drop-off locations in your local area, visit [RecyclingNearYou.com.au](https://www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au)

Businesses can search [BusinessRecycling.com.au](https://www.BusinessRecycling.com.au) for cardboard recycling options, as well compactor and baler suppliers. A potential cost saving measure is to use a compactor and/or baler to squash and secure large volumes to make storage and transport easier.



Keep cardboard clean of food scraps for recycling

What Happens to Cardboard?

Cardboard can be recycled along with paper and is remade into many different kinds of paper products. Recycled cardboard can also be made into sound-proofing material, insulation and even furniture.

Every time paper is processed the individual fibres become weaker, limiting the number of times it can be recycled – usually up to eight times. Paper that has been recycled as many times as the fibres will allow is turned into compost and breaks down naturally.

Take Action

Recycling cardboard is simple:

1. Find out, through [RecyclingNearYou.com.au](https://www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au) or your council's website, whether your council collects cardboard (most do);
2. Make sure cardboard food packaging is clean of food scraps and oil;
3. Compost waxed or soiled cardboard in your worm farm, bokashi bucket or compost heap.
4. For businesses, search [BusinessRecycling.com.au](https://www.BusinessRecycling.com.au) for cardboard recycling options, as well as [compactor and baler suppliers](#) in your area.

More Information

[NSW Environmental Protection Authority](https://www.nsw.gov.au/environmental-protection)