Transform the norm

Create compost – not landfill

Keep me! Put this guide somewhere handy

Merri-bek's 4-bin waste service

Trial user guide 2025-26



This is your guide on:

- **How to use your bins**
- **How to reduce household waste**
- **Where to go for more information**

Merri-bek City Council

Sustainability Victoria

VICTORIA State Government

What goes in each bin

For a full list visit: merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins

Food and garden organics

Collected weekly

- Put food scraps and garden clippings in the bin loose, not in bags
- You can use paper towels or paper liners to wrap food waste

✔ Yes



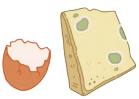
Fruit and vegetable scraps



Meat, bones, seafood



Bread, meal leftovers



Cheese, egg shells



Plants, grass, weeds



Leaves, twigs



⊘ No



Plastic bags and food in containers/packaging



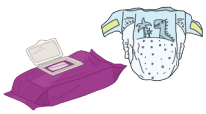
Compostable bags

General rubbish

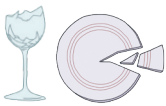
Collected every 2 weeks

- Use this bin only for items that can't be reused or recycled
- Food waste no longer goes in your general rubbish bin

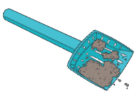
✔ Yes



Nappies, wet wipes



Broken glassware, crockery



Kitty litter, animal droppings



Old clothing, shoes or textiles



Bagged rubbish



⊘ No



Batteries and e-waste



Hazardous materials

Not in any bin: Batteries, electronic waste and chemicals are dangerous in our bins. Building waste, soil and rubble also don't belong in bins. Find out how to dispose of these and other household items: **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/azguide**

When to put your bins out: Check the calendar in your envelope or see the online bin collection calendar: **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bin-collection-calendar**

Mixed recycling

Collected every 2 weeks*

- Put recycling in the bin loose, not in bags
- Items must be empty
- Flatten cardboard boxes to save space

✔ Yes



Steel tins



Aluminium cans and foil



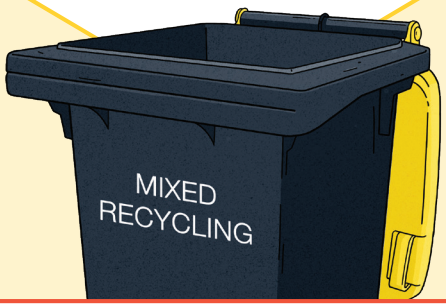
Paper, newspaper, magazines



Cardboard, egg cartons



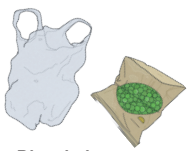
Plastic bottles and containers



⊘ No



Recycling in plastic bags



Plastic bags or soft plastics

*Apartments with 20+ households have weekly recycling collections

Glass recycling

Collected every 4 weeks

- Put glass bottles and jars in the bin loose, not in bags
- Glass bottles and jars must be empty
- Jar lids and bottle caps must be firmly attached

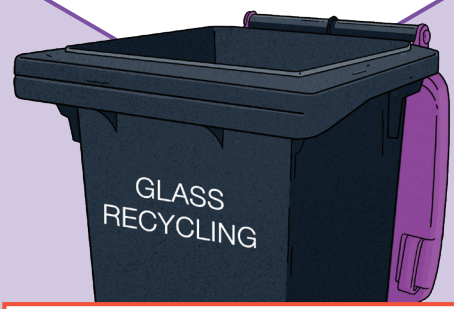
✔ Yes



Glass jars



Glass bottles



⊘ No



Ceramics and crockery



Drinking glasses

Save space in your rubbish bin

Now that your rubbish bin is collected every 2 weeks, these simple changes could reduce what's in your bin.

Make the most of your FOGO bin



Food waste belongs in your food and garden organics bin – that's FOGO for short. More people in Merri-bek are using their FOGO bins for food waste than ever before, but food waste still makes up over one third of the average rubbish bin. By using your FOGO bin for food waste instead of your rubbish bin, it can make a big impact.

Try these FOGO tips:

- Line your kitchen caddy with newspaper or paper towel
- Put meat and seafood scraps in your freezer and transfer them to your FOGO bin close to your collection day
- Empty your kitchen caddy into the FOGO bin every 2 to 3 days
- Layer your food scraps between your garden waste in the FOGO bin
- Keep your bin in the shade (where possible) and don't overfill it

Find more tips for success: **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fogo**



Claim up to $100 to try reusable cloth nappies and up to $35 to try reusable period products

Nappies and period products make up over 10% of the average rubbish bin in Merri-bek. Consider if a discount on the purchase price of cloth nappies and/or period products will help you make the switch to reusables and reduce your waste. Learn more here: **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/reducingwaste**

Use our Recycling Stations for hard to recycle items

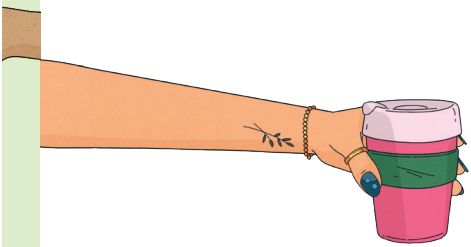
Drop off a range of household items into our yellow recycling cabinets at our Customer Service Centres. Accepted items include mobile phones, household batteries, light globes and eye glasses.
Find out more: **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/recycling-stations**

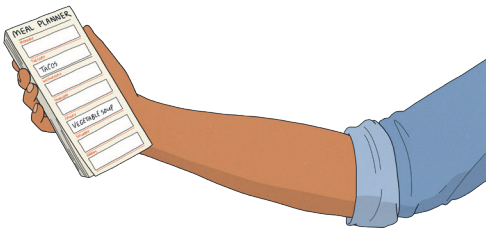
Reduce waste at home



The best way to reduce waste in your home, is to avoid buying products that create waste in the first place:

- Buy only what you need
- Reuse, borrow or buy second hand
- Buy products that last
- Look for products with less packaging and that are made from recycled materials
- Make a list before you go shopping and try to stick to it.





Give your items a second life

If you have items in good condition, consider finding them a new home:

- Sell, swap or giveaway through various online platforms like Facebook Marketplace, Freecycle and Gumtree.
- Donate items to a charity store during business hours
- Repair common household items at a Repair Café. Go to **brunswicktoollibrary.org** for information and event dates.

Avoid food waste

To make the most of your food at home, get simple tips on meal planning, food storage, shopping and more. Explore these and other easy ways to reduce your food waste by visiting: **conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/eat-it-dont-bin-it**

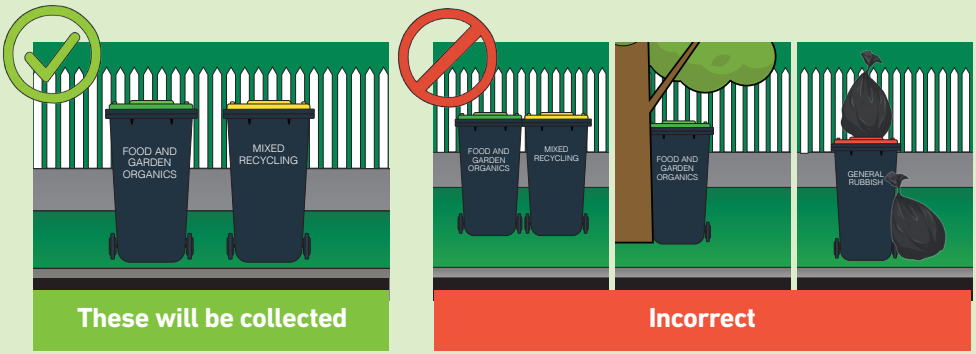
Learn more about reducing your household waste at merri-bek.vic.gov.au/reducingwaste



Put your bins out correctly so that they can be emptied

- Place your bins out the night before your collection day
- Put bins on the nature strip or footpath within 1 metre of the kerb
- Leave 30cm between bins and other objects such as trees and cars
- Face the wheels of your bins towards your property
- Please do not overfill your bins. Bin lids must be fully closed
- Waste placed next to or on top of bins will not be collected
- Bins should not weigh more than 30kg
- Once empty, bring your bins in. Our local law requires bins to be brought back onto your property within 24 hours after they have been emptied.

Bins placed incorrectly may not be collected



Put only the right things in your bins

Contamination is when you put incorrect items in your bin. By putting the right items in the right bin, you are helping to make new products like glass jars, compost and mulch.

If you place incorrect items in your bin, it may not be collected. A contamination sticker will be placed on the bin.

Damaged, lost and stolen bins

To prevent theft or damage to your bins, bring them back onto your property within 24 hours of your bins being emptied.

Contact us to report damaged, lost or stolen bins for repair or replacement.

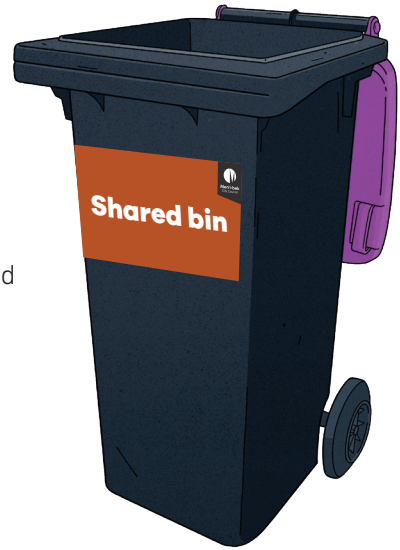
Using shared bins



Many residents living in units, townhouses and apartments share their bins. Shared bins are used where there is not enough space for each household to store 4 bins.

Follow these tips to get the most out of your shared bins:

- Store shared bins in a central area so that everyone can access them safely
- Agree who will take the bins out for collection and bring them in each week
- Ensure shared bins do not weigh more than 30kg and are not overfilled as we may not be able to collect them
- If you need to review the number of shared bins at your site, discuss this with your owners corporation before contacting Council for help.



Your small acts make a big impact

It might seem like a small thing to sort your waste into 4 bins, but it makes a big impact when we all do it correctly.

Reducing waste and recycling well helps keep valuable resources out of landfill so they can be used again and again.

By sorting your waste and recycling correctly we can halve the amount of waste sent to landfill. Plus, more of your recycling than ever before can be turned into things like new glass jars, mulch and compost.

Learn more at **sustainability.vic.gov.au**



Sustainability Victoria

VICTORIA State Government

More information about your bins

Πρέπει να διαχωρίσετε τα απορρίμματά σας σε 4 διαφορετικούς κάδους. Αυτός είναι ο οδηγός σας για τη χρήση των 4 κάδων απορριμμάτων σας. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins** ή τηλεφωνήστε στο 9280 1912.

तपाईले फोहोरहरूलाई 4 वटा फरक फरक बनिमा फोहोर छुट्याएर राख्नुपर्छ । यो नर्दिेशकिामा तपाई कसरी आफ्ना 4 वटा फोहोर बनि प्रयोग गर्न सक्नुहुन्छ भन्ने बारेमा जानकारी दइिएको छ । थप जानकारीका लागि **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins** हेर्नुहोस् वा 9280 0751 मा टेलफिोन गर्नुहोस्।

È necessario suddividere i rifiuti in 4 diversi bidoni. Questa è la guida all'utilizzo dei 4 bidoni della spazzatura. Per ulteriori informazioni, visitare il sito **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins** o chiamare il numero 9280 1911.

Atıklarınızı 4 farklı çöp kutusuna ayırmanız gerekiyor. Bu belge, 4 çöp kutunuzu nasıl kullanacağınızı anlatan birkılavuzdur Daha fazla bilgi almak için **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins** adresini ziyaret edin veya 9280 1914 numaralı telefonu arayın.

يتعين عليك فرز نفاياتك وتوزيعها على 4 صناديق مختلفة. هذا هو دليلك لاستخدام صناديق القمامة الأربعة. للمزيد من المعلومات، قم بزيارة: merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins أو اتصل على الرقم: 9280 1913

آپ کو اپنے کچرے کو 4 مختلف کچرہ دانوں میں ترتیب دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہ آپ کے 4 کچرہ دانوں استعمال کے لیے آپ کا گائیڈ ہے۔ مزید معلومات کے لیے، ملاحظہ کریں یا: merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins پر کال کریں: 9280 1919

Visit: **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins**
Email: **kerbsidewastereform@merri-bek.vic.gov.au**
Call: **9240 1111**
Scan the QR code

Speak with us in your language conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/trial/your-language

Per maggiori informazioni nella tua lingua, chiama il numero **9280 1911**

اپنی زبان میں مزید جاننے کے لیے، پر کال کریں۔ **9280 1917**

如需了解更多您语言版本的信息，请致电 **9280 0750**

अपनी भाषा में अधिक जानने के लिए, **9280 1918** पर कॉल करें

Για να μάθετε περισσότερα στη γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το **9280 1912**

तपाईको भाषामा थप जान्नको लागि, **9280 1910** मा कल गर्नुहोस्

Para saber más en tu idioma llama al **9280 1916**

To speak with us in a language not listed here, please call **9280 1919**

لمعرفة المزيد بلغتك، اتصل بالرقم **9280 1913**

Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi edinmek için **9280 1914**'ü arayın

Để tìm hiểu thêm bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi **9280 1915**