

Recycling glass

Did you know?

- Each year, an average Gold Coast household puts more than 26kg of recyclable glass in its garbage bin, which ends up in landfill. If all this glass was recycled, it would equal the electricity requirements of 100 households and save more than 10,270 m³ of landfill space.¹
- Only 8 grams of ceramic (the size of a coffee cup handle) in a tonne of recycled glass is enough to contaminate the entire load, making it un-recyclable and sending it to landfill.

How is glass made?

- The raw materials for making glass are silica (from sand), soda ash and limestone which are heated together to very high temperatures (more than 1500°C) to produce molten glass.
- This glass is then blown into the jar or bottle shape using air and allowed to cool to room temperature before being taken to a factory to be filled, labelled and sealed.

What glass products can be recycled in your household recycling bin?

- ✓ Only glass food and drink containers: all glass bottles (wine, sauce etc) and all glass jars.

What glass products cannot be recycled in your household recycling bin?

- ✗ Oven proof or heat proof cookware (e.g. pyrex)
- ✗ Ceramic plates, cups etc
- ✗ Drinking glasses
- ✗ Window or mirror glass
- ✗ Light bulbs
- ✗ Opaque glass
- ✗ Spectacles



Make sure all glass bottles and jars are cleaned of food and other residue before placing them loosely in your household recycling bin.

How is glass recycled?

- From your recycling bin, the glass bottles and jars are taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Carrara to be separated from other recyclables.
- At the MRF, glass is separated from other recyclables and an optical sorting machine separates it into clear glass, coloured glass of different sizes and contaminated items.
- The separated glass streams are further refined into pure glass before being transported to a plant where they are made into new glass bottles and jars.

What are the benefits of recycling glass?

- Recycling 1 tonne of glass saves 1.1 tonnes of raw materials.²
- Recycling just two glass bottles saves enough energy to boil five cups of tea.³
- Although glass is inert and does not break down in landfill to produce greenhouse gases like organic material does, it remains there indefinitely. Remember glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled indefinitely.

Close the loop and buy recycled

Recycling our glass waste into new products is only successful if there is a market for the recycled product. To become a true recycler make sure you buy products made from recycled materials.

For more information, please contact Council on 07 5581 6799.

¹ www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/warr/benefitrecycalJune2008.xls

² www.sustainabilityvictoria.com.au

³ www.wasteonline.org.uk/resources/InformationSheets/Glass.htm

