

## Recycling Tips for Consumers

### *How do I recycle?*

*Recycling is easy once you know how. First, call your local council to find out what recycling facilities exist in your area. Most local councils have a kerbside collection of recyclables that involves placing your recyclables out on the footpath for collection on a set day - just like a normal garbage collection.*

*Your council will provide you with a recycling container and will provide you with very helpful information on what can and cannot be included for collection. The usual items include all glass jars and bottles, aluminium and steel cans, PET plastic soft drink bottles and HDPE plastic milk and detergent bottles. It may also be possible to include paper, light cardboard, newspapers and 'junk' mail, and milk and fruit juice cartons.*

### *What can I recycle?*

- **Glass**

*Household bottles and jars are made from a melted mixture of silica (sand), soda ash and limestone. Glass manufacturers can use your old glass to make new glass containers.*

*When you recycle glass:*

- *Recycle all glass containers, not just bottles*
- *Rinse containers with water*
- *Remove contaminants such as lids, corks and caps - labels can remain.*

### **Plastic**

*There are many types of plastic. The Plastics industry Association has introduced a voluntary system of coding to help recyclers and the public identify the type of plastic. A number in a triangle identifies the plastic.*



PETE PET Polyethylene Terephthalate



HDPE HDPE High Density Polyethylene



UPVC Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride or PPVC Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride



LDPE LDPE Low Density Polyethylene



PP PP Polypropylene



PS PS Polystyrene or EPS Expanded Polystyrene



OTHER Includes all other resins and multi materials (eg laminates)

*The two types of plastic most commonly recycled are PET (polyethyleneterephthalate) which is commonly used for soft drink packaging, and HDPE (high density polyethylene). which is used to make plastic milk and detergent bottles. Other types of plastic are not generally recycled in Australia.*

*Amway has for many years been a strong advocate of this coding system. Most of our plastic containers are embossed on the base with a code to identify the plastic type.*

- **Aluminium**

*Can be recycled over and over again. Aluminium aerosol cans can also be recycled.*

*Much energy is used to produce aluminium from bauxite. Once in metallic form, aluminium can be recycled indefinitely.*

*Recycling aluminium uses only 5 percent of the energy needed to produce new aluminium from bauxite, so recycling drastically reduces the amount of coal used in energy production in power stations and reduces emissions to the atmosphere.*

- **Other Metals**

*Many types of metals can be recycled. For example:*

- *Steel from food cans, aerosol cans, old car bodies, etc.*
- *Copper from water heaters, car radiators, copper pipes.*
- *Lead from old car batteries.*

*Ask your local council about their metal recycling programs.*

- **Paper**

*Good quality paper is in demand with recyclers to produce a variety of recycled paper products such as printing and writing paper, office supplies such as envelopes, toilet paper and tissues.*

*Lower grade paper is usually recycled to make products such as cardboard and insulation. The short fibres in newsprint make it unsuitable for recycling uses other than packaging material, insulation material or being recycled back into newsprint.*

*When you recycle paper:*

- *Make two-sided copies, use the blank side of used paper for notepaper before recycling, and re-use envelopes*
- *Set up an office paper recovery scheme to separate good quality office paper for further uses in areas where local markets or collection services exist*
- *Use recycled paper where possible.*

## **Your role at home**

Here's a quick check-list to help you Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and thereby provide a better environment for everyone.

- Check that the products you buy are the best choice for the environment (for example, does it save energy, conserve water, does it have recyclable content?)
- Reject unnecessary packaging
- Re-use packaging
- Sort your rubbish
- Use your local recycling depot or kerbside service
- Compost kitchen and garden waste

Choose goods made from recyclable materials whenever possible