

What happens to household recycling?

Household recycling is collected through the Kerbside Recycling Collection Service, but what happens to it next? Here's a brief run-down of the recycling process and what happens to your recyclables.

Collection

Recyclables are collected through the Kerbside Recycling Collection Service, and transported to a consolidation plant in Taupo.

Plastic: Processing includes washing, label removing, shredding into flakes and dried. The dry flakes are then squeezed and moulded into pellets to form the secondary raw material for new soft drink bottles, recycling bins, and toys.



Cans: Most steel cans are melted down and recycled into more steel products. Aluminium cans are processed to separate the aluminium then used to make new aluminium based products.



Baled and exported

Once at the plant, plastic, tin and aluminium recyclable materials are baled together and made available for processing into new products. Glass, paper and cardboard recyclables are processed in New Zealand.

Paper and cardboard: Office paper is recycled into tissue products. Other papers such as newspaper and glossy paper are recycled into newsprint. Cardboard is washed, bleached and rolled to make recycled board. Modern techniques mean paper and cardboard can be recycled up to 15 times before it starts to breakdown.



Glass: Is recycled into new glass bottles and jars and can also be used as a sand substitute in road construction. Glass never wears out, it can be recycled forever.



All of these recyclable materials make their way back into our lives in many ways. By recycling, we give used products a new lease of life rather than bury it in a landfill.

What can you do to help the recycling process?

When you shop, you can do your bit by purchasing products with packaging that is able to be recycled. For example, choose a plastic margarine container with a 1 or 2 marked underneath. Buy mushrooms or tomatoes that come in a paper bag instead of plastic wrap and a polystyrene tray. You can also look for products with the **Environmental Choice logo**. This label recognises genuine efforts made by manufacturers to reduce the environmental impacts of their products.

