

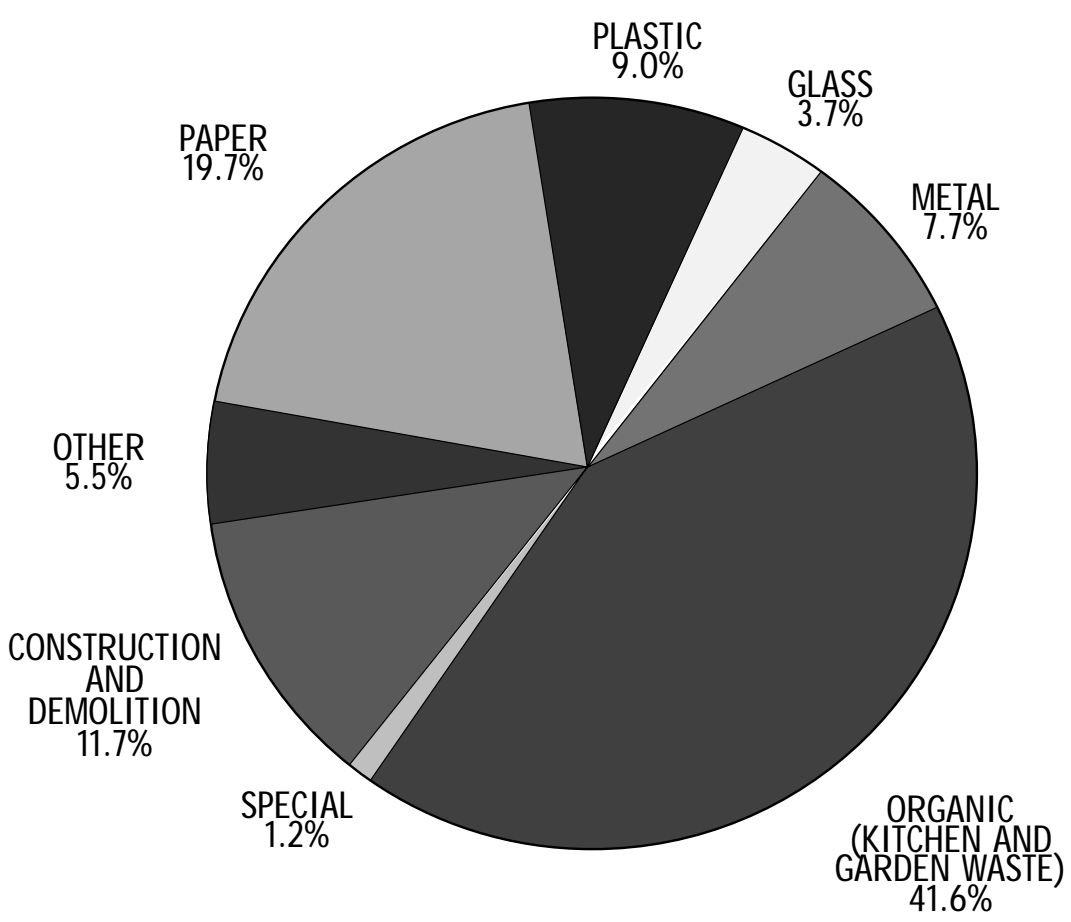
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WHAT'S IN YOUR RUBBISH?

Ever thought about what you throw away in your rubbish each week?

As a general guide, your household waste consists of:



RESIDENTIAL COMPOSITION
Auckland Regional Landfills 1997

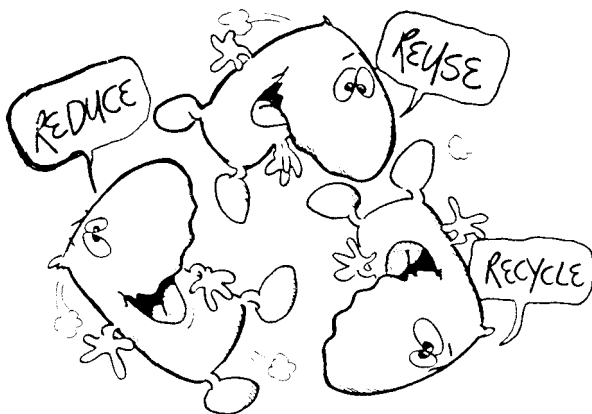
WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR RUBBISH?

Household rubbish has traditionally been disposed of in landfills controlled by regional or local councils. Currently, in Auckland there is a move towards private companies owning and operating landfills.

Landfill sites have to be properly maintained, covered and compacted daily to avoid adverse effects on the environment.

WHAT CAN WE DO INSTEAD OF USING LANDFILLS?

WE CAN REDUCE REUSE AND RECYCLE



Avoiding excess packaging and reusing items reduces rubbish.

○ *Recycling*

Recycling avoids the cost of immediate disposal and saves landfill space. Recycling **conserves natural resources, reducing pressure on the environment** to contain waste.

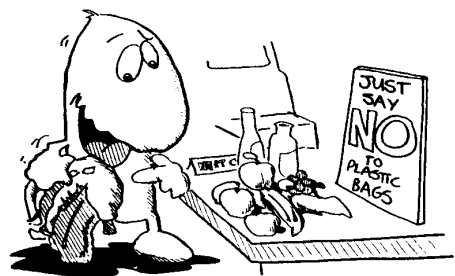
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

- *Use purchasing power* to show manufacturers and storekeepers what you want. Buy goods with only the minimum of packaging and tell store owners and manufacturers why.



- *Use reusable shopping bags* instead of disposable, plastic supermarket bags.



- *Use refillable containers.* Ask supermarkets and local stores to use refillable containers and to stock, recycled products.
- *Be a careful consumer.* Buy durable, long-lasting products. Reduce packaging by buying in bulk. Avoid throwaway, disposable items.
- *Support charity groups.* Clothing, household goods, linen and blankets are reused and repaired by charity groups. Buy recycled, recyclable, repairable, refillable or reusable items.

- **Recycle.**
As well as decreasing rubbish output, recycling saves energy and limited natural resources.
- **Second Hand Shops.**
Support second hand furniture book and clothes shops. The range is endless from antique dealers to church op-shops.
- **Swap.**
Set up a swap group in your area through a residents' association, local community house, or through your Plunket, playcentre or kindergarten association.

Swap growing children's clothes and toys. This can be done twice a year for clothes in the spring and autumn. Items can be named and priced with a small amount and entered into a book held by a "banker" on the swap day. (Alternatively, a direct swap can be facilitated). The Swap day may be held in a garage, home, or the service centre involved. This way you acquire "new" clothes and toys for your growing children's needs, for a low cost and yours have a new, useful life elsewhere.



RECYCLING POTENTIAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Organic material such as kitchen and garden waste - excellent

Most organic material can be composted, providing a cheap, chemical free nutrient boost to your garden. Compost brochures are available from Auckland Regional Council or ring the Wasteline Ph: 09-366-2070.

Glass - excellent.

Glass is 100% recyclable. Some bottles can be washed and reused while others are broken and used in the production of new glass.

Metals - excellent.

Aluminium cans are easily recyclable. Some kerbside collections accept steel cans. Sims Pacific Metals in Otahuhu has a collection depot for steel cans (food/pet-food containers). Often metals can be taken to your local scrap dealer.

Plastic - good.

We can recycle plastic in certain cases. The Plastic industry has introduced a voluntary coding system for plastic with seven categories to make plastic sorting easier. Kerbside recycling collections accept all rigid plastic coded either 1 (HDPE) containers or 2 (PET). Some supermarkets accept plastic bags back for recycling. Milk containers and carbonated drink bottles may be taken to a public drop off depot, often located at your local school, pre school or shopping car park containers.

While technically all plastic can be recycled, not all types are accepted by manufacturers for recycling processes and facilities are as yet not set up in New Zealand to recycle all types of plastics.

Paper and Card - excellent. Newspaper and office paper is recyclable in the region at this stage. Put this and cardboard boxes out for your weekly collection (on the same day as your rubbish day). Instigate a paper recycling programme in your office.



Car batteries and lubricating oil - excellent.

Potentially damaging items such as old car batteries and lubricating oil should be recycled. Old batteries can leak harmful battery acid. Lubricating oil disposed of down drains can pollute waterways.

HOW DOES REDUCING, REUSING AND RECYCLING HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

- By reducing our raw material needs, we can cut back on activities such as logging and mining, which help to preserve our natural resources.
- By making products from recycled material, less energy is required for

processing; for example, recycling aluminium uses only five percent of the energy needed to smelt new aluminium.

When we use less energy, we reduce our output of harmful 'greenhouse' gases from burning fossil fuels. When less waste goes to a landfill, we reduce the production of methane and carbon dioxide gases - two major greenhouse gases.

Making goods from recycled materials often helps to reduce air and water pollution and uses less water.

- Preventing material entering the waste stream - for example, vegetable scraps and garden clippings make worthwhile composting.
- Less landfill space is needed if we reduce, reuse and recycle.

REMEMBER!
REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE



Auckland
Regional
Council

For further information
Regional Waste
Private Bag 92 012
Auckland

ARC Wasteline (09) 366-2070
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