

# Waste Minimisation...why?



***On average each Australian throws away at least half a tonne of domestic waste per year.<sup>1</sup>***

**The average bin contains:**

- 3% metal**
- 6% plastics**
- 5% glass**
- 19% paper and cardboard**
- 58% food scraps and garden waste**
- 11% other**



The average 4 person family makes enough rubbish to fill a 3 bedroom house ...



**By recycling 1 tonne of paper, which is approximately 40,000, A4 sheets you save:**

- 13 trees**
- 2.5 barrels of oil (fuel)**
- 4,100kw of electricity (power)**
- 4 cubic metres of landfill space**
- 31,780 litres of water**



Reduces greenhouse gas and water/land pollution



Saves natural resources



Saves water



Saves energy



Saves landfill space

For more information call  
**NetWaste's Environmental Learning Advisor**  
02 6393 8771 or visit  
[www.netwaste.org.au](http://www.netwaste.org.au)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/downtoearth/allaboutwaste.htm>

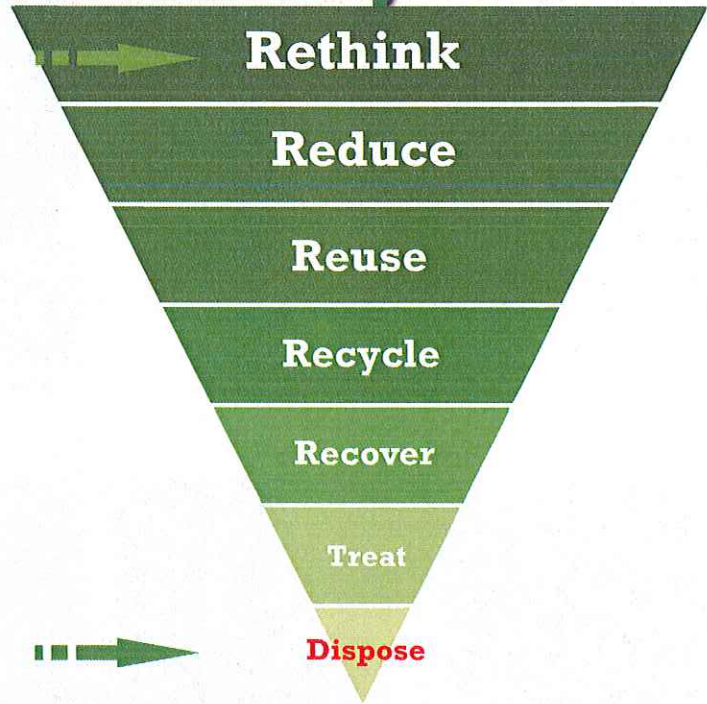
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## The Waste Hierarchy

Most preferable →

■ The waste hierarchy lists options for waste management by order of preference, from the most to the least.



← Least preferable

**Rethink** is the first step in the hierarchy because it's probably the most important - how often do we throw something away without even a thought as to where it came from or where it will end up? Start *thinking* about what you *really need* and refuse the things you don't, and you'll soon be on the path to clutter free bliss!



**Reducing** waste includes planning what we need to buy and making longer term choices that will save money in the long run. For example, try reducing your use of single use items such as bottled water, plastic bags and disposable batteries; opt instead for reusable water bottles, and rechargeable batteries.



You can **reuse** a lot of the items you might normally discard: get creative and reuse old tin cans, takeaway containers, clothing, building materials and plastic bags for household or garden tasks or crafts. Also, don't forget secondhand shops for reusing old clothes and still-working electronics and furniture.



**Recycling** is supposed to be great for the environment, so why is it so low on the ladder? Recycling uses a lot less energy, water and raw materials than manufacturing products from scratch; but avoiding the use of certain products in the first place is an even better option.



**Recover** your organic waste in a worm farm, compost bin or Bokashi bin and return it to the earth - it's nature's way of recycling, and it can reduce the waste you send to landfill by heaps!



Whatever you **dispose** of in a rubbish bin will end up in landfill, where it's buried forever. Landfills have many negative impacts on the environment, including land and groundwater pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Try to make it the last option for your waste by looking into all other choices first.



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