

Tweed's Multi-Bin System

Recycle more and waste less



Tweed Shire Council uses a Multi-bin System to collect residential waste. Use this brochure to help you 'Do the Right Bin' and reduce what you send to landfill.

The Multi-bin System was introduced in December 2009 to help Tweed residents recycle better and reduce what is sent to landfill. The system includes the following set of bins:

- 140 L red lid bin for the collection of garbage (80 L and 240 L bins are also available - different charges apply), **and**
 - 240 L yellow lid bin to collect all household recyclables
- Residents within urban areas of the current green waste service area, can also receive an optional, user-pays 240 L green lid bin for garden prunings.

Benefits of the Multi-bin System

Better recycling – less waste to landfill

The majority of most people's waste can be recycled. The larger 240 L bin for recycling provides a greater space to pack recyclables into.

Less contamination of recycling

Having separate, dedicated bins makes it more obvious that the two are for two different types of waste. With the previous split bin system, overflow of general rubbish into the recycling section was a common cause of contaminated recyclables. If recyclables become too contaminated, they need to be disposed of in landfill.

In 2005, the amount of recyclables contaminated was 15 per cent. This reduced to 12 per cent in 2009 and since the introduction of the Multi-bin System in December 2009, the contamination rate has dropped to four per cent.

Standard Australian bin colours - red, yellow and green

Being consistent with messages and colours across the country makes the bins easier for everyone to use. Confusion over which bin to use often leads to a loss of, or contamination of recyclables. The colours used for the bins are in-line with Australian Standards, with yellow for recycling, red for garbage and green for green waste.

Do the right thing with your bin

- Keep your bins one metre apart and free from obstacles such as cars and trees.



- Place your bin out for collection with the wheels facing away from the kerb.
- Your bin needs to be put out before 6 am on your collection day, as collection times may vary.
- Ensure the lid of your bin can close - overfull or contaminated bins will not be collected.

Recycling Service - 240 litre

Your recycling service is collected every two weeks. The collection day is generally the same day as your garbage collection and the alternate week of the optional green organics service, if available in your service area.



Your recycling bin is a co-mingled service, which means all recyclable household items can go into the one bin. These items are then sorted at the Chinderah Recycling Facility and sent away for re-processing. Only the following items can be accepted in your Tweed Shire Council yellow lid bin:

Plastic bottles and containers

Any disposable, household plastic bottle or container (plastic lids can be left on) can be recycled. This means you no longer need to look for recycling symbols or the plastic identification codes, which are often hard to see.

The main rule to follow with plastic recycling is the

Scrunchy Rule - if you can scrunch a plastic into a ball in your hand, it CANNOT be recycled - put it in your red lid bin. Scrunchy plastics include plastic bags, plastic wrappers and bubble wrap. These 'flimsy' plastics jam the machinery that sorts your recyclables.



Expanded polystyrene (eg. meat trays) and foam are not recycled in the Tweed, put these into your red lid garbage bin.

Glass bottles and jars

Recycle only disposable glass bottles and jars. No pyrex, ceramics (mugs, plates), glassware (drinking glasses, bowls), sheet glass (window glass, shower screens) or mirrors in your recycling bin - these items are made to withstand a much higher temperature and will ruin the normal glass recycling process.

Steel and aluminium cans

Steel and aluminium cans are the only metal items you can recycle in your yellow lid bin. They include food and drink cans and empty aerosol cans. Where possible, give cans a quick rinse to remove most residue and crush or squash for more space in your recycling bin. Empty paint tins can be placed into the recycling bin, however if paint is still present, firstly tip it onto some newspaper and let this dry - dispose of the dry paint/newspaper in the red lid garbage bin and place the empty tin into the recycling bin. For other metal recycling options available in the Tweed, check the 'Additional Recycling Services' page of this brochure.

Paper and cardboard

Only clean items - no food residue or grease and no waxed cardboard (eg. fruit and vege boxes). Office paper, magazines, newspaper, cardboard and longlife milk or juice cartons can all be recycled. Food-spoiled paper within a paper recycling bale can lead to that whole bale being rejected.

Do not put your recyclables into plastic bags - instead, use a box or tub to collect your recyclables to easily dispose of them. To recycle plastic bags, return them to shopping centres which collect them for recycling or even better, say 'no' to plastic bags whenever possible.

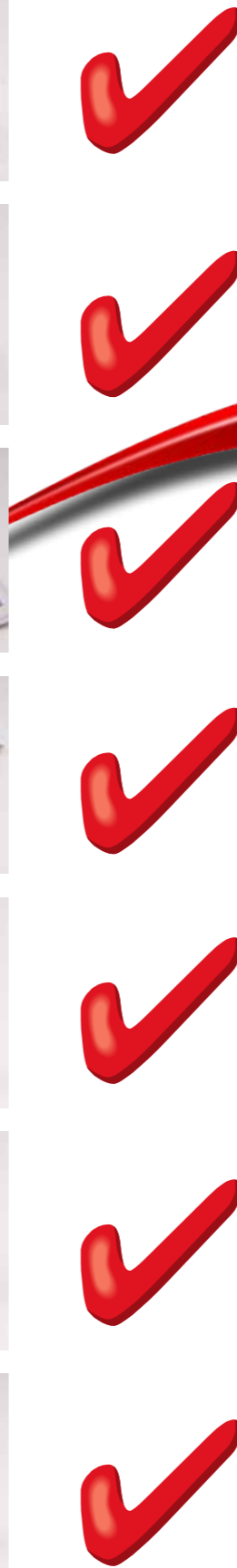


Recycling tips

- Labels don't need to be removed, these burn away when the item is recycled.
- Items only need a quick rinse for smell and hygiene issues while they wait to be processed.
- Lids made of the same material as the bottle or container can remain on - eg. plastic lids can remain on plastic bottles. Lids are often too small to pass through the recycling facility themselves, so if they are removed, pop them into a container of the same material to help them through.

Do not contaminate your recyclables!

Some of the major offenders include:



Why recycle?

There are a number of benefits to recycling:

- **Reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.** Due to landfill levies which will increase over time, it is cheaper for us all to recycle as much as possible. Also, by not filling our landfills as quickly with items that could be recycled or re-used, we extend the life of each landfill - this is a major benefit to our environment.
- **Less energy is used to recycle items compared to making them from raw materials.** For example, making an aluminium can from old cans uses 95 per cent less energy compared to making one from raw materials.

Garbage Service - 140 litre

Your garbage service is collected weekly

There are three size options for the red lid garbage bin. The standard size is a 140 L bin, however a smaller 80 L or larger 240 L option is also available. For charges relating to these size alternatives, please contact Council's Waste Management Unit.

Any household waste that cannot be re-used, recycled or composted goes into your red lid garbage bin. Some of these items include:

- ✓ Scrunchy plastics such as plastic bags, wrappers, packaging, chip packets and plastic bread packets.
- ✓ Expanded polystyrene eg. foam packaging, meat trays, foam cups.
- ✓ Ceramics, pyrex, glassware, candescent light globes, window glass, sheet glass, mirrors.
- ✓ Food waste, nappies, soiled paper (used paper towels, tissues or pizza boxes).



Do not put in

- Car batteries
- Scrap metal
- Car/ auto parts
- Hazardous waste (asbestos, chemicals, liquid paint)
- Concrete
- Gas bottles
- Motor oil
- Plaster boards
- Roof tiles
- Garden waste

Check out the 'Additional Recycling Services' section of this brochure to find out where these items can be taken or recycled, or phone Council's Waste Management Unit for advice.

Optional Green Organics Service - 240 litre

Collected every two weeks

The green organics bin is a 240 L optional 'user pays' service available only to the current urban service area. To find out if this service is available in your area, or to arrange the service, contact Council's Waste Management Unit.

The collection day is generally the same day as your garbage collection, but on the alternate week to your recycling bin.

Tenants should note that Council requires the permission of the property owner or the Real Estate Agent before a green organics service can be placed on a property, as charges are placed on the property owner's rates.

The green organics collected from this service is taken to Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre, where it is mulched and available for sale to the community. The centre is open Monday to Friday 7 am to 4 pm; weekends and holidays 9 am to 4 pm (closed Good Friday and Christmas Day).

Only place these items in your green organics bin;

- Leaves
- Small branches and palm fronds (cut these into smaller sections to maximise space and ensure your lid will close - up to 10 cm diameter by 30 cm long is a general guide of what is accepted)
- Grass clippings
- Other small prunings

Please do not place any other items in your green organics bin, even if they are organic.

The green lid bin is **not** a 'composting' process. Food and biodegradable or compostable shopping bags cannot be placed into your green organics bin.



Households are encouraged to compost their own food waste and garden prunings where possible. Compost bins and worm farms are available for sale at the Tweed Civic and Cultural Centre, Murwillumbah Civic and Cultural Centre and Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre.

Additional Recycling and Collection Services

Apart from everyday household recycling, Tweed residents can make use of a number of other free recycling options. Dates for scheduled collections are advertised in Council's weekly newsletter, the Tweed Link.



Metal collection

When: Free collection from your property available all year round. Phone Council's Waste Management Unit to arrange this service.

Items collected: Derelict motor vehicles, unwanted farm machinery and unwanted white goods (eg. old washing machines, fridges and freezers).

All metal items collected are sent to processors to be recycled.

Electronic waste (e-waste)

When: Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre accept e-waste at no charge all year round.

Do not put e-waste into your household recycling bin – these items cannot be recycled through this system.



Items are sent away to be dismantled into recyclable groups (eg. plastic, glass) which are then processed to make new products.

Items accepted:

- Computer equipment – monitors, hard drives, keyboards and computer mice, power supplies, floppy disc and CD drives.
- Business and home office equipment – printers, scanners, mobile phones, photocopiers, fax machines, answering machines, telephones, electronic games and toys.
- Entertainment equipment – televisions, videos, DVD players, hi-fi equipment, stereos, speakers, digital cameras and video cameras.

Items not accepted:

- Gas bottles
- Non-rechargeable batteries
- White goods
- Fluorescent light tubes

Household chemicals

When: One collection day during March or April each year at Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre.

Items accepted:

Up to 20 litres of household chemicals, including paint and paint-related products, pesticides, herbicides and poisons, solvents and household cleaners, pool chemicals, acids and alkalis and hobby chemicals. The aim of this collection is to reduce the amount of toxic substances sent to landfill by diverting these to proper facilities that can safely treat them and prepare many for re-use or recycling.

This brochure is printed on 100 per cent recycled paper using soy-based inks - please recycle or compost it when you are finished with it.

DrumMuster

When: Two collection days during April and December each year at Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre. Collection is available other times of the year by appointment only – phone (02) 6676 6085 to arrange this.



Items accepted: Empty plastic and metal drums displaying the DrumMuster logo. Drums must be cleaned both inside and out (including caps and threads) and allowed to drain or air dry so no rinse water or dry chemical residue remains - in line with Agsafe Standard for Effective Rinsing of Farm Chemical Containers brochure available from chemical retail outlets. Lids must be removed and steel drums punctured at the base.

Unclean or partly filled containers will not be accepted.

Compact fluorescent and fluorescent light bulbs

Residents can bring their used fluorescent light bulbs to the Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre free of charge. The glass must be intact and preferably in packaging (use the packaging from the replacement bulb). These bulbs are broken down under controlled conditions and recycled.



Batteries, waste oil, gas bottles

When: Items can be taken to Stott's Creek Resource Recovery Centre all year round. Place items in the designated collection points to be recycled.

Batteries: Car and boat batteries

Waste oil: up to 20 litres accepted

Gas bottles: bottles must be empty

Other collections: Council clean up

Metal items are recycled, however all other items are sent to landfill. Make the most of the recycling options available throughout the year.

When: Two scheduled collection days per year, usually during May and November. Available to residents who receive a garbage collection service.

Items accepted: Maximum one cubic meter (small box trailer) of excess household items. Must not be used for vacant allotment clearing, commercial/trade waste or general farm cleanups.

Unreasonable amounts of household rubbish will not be collected.

Contact Council's Waste Management Unit

Telephone: (02) 6670 2694

Email: waste@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.tweed.nsw.gov.au

