

Pollution Management

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Waste and recycling

What can I do to reduce waste?

There are some very simple steps that we can all take to reduce the environmental impact of our waste:

Reduce

- avoid single use , poorly made or "throw away" goods
- choose quality products with minimal packaging
- choose products with recyclable packaging
- **buy NZ made products - you know they meet good environmental production standards**
- choose products made from recycled materials
- buy long lasting kitchen utensils, household products, toys and clothing
- buy products which can be repaired rather than needing to be thrown away when they break
- reduce packaging by buying in bulk.

Reuse

- buy a second-hand item - it will be cheaper and still do the job
- re-use containers such as glass jars for storage
- use your own bags and say "no" to plastic bags when shopping
- mend broken appliances and furniture whenever possible
- take old books, magazines and toys to hospitals, surgeries or schools
- take used items of clothing to op shops and local jumble sales
- join the [Freecycle](#) network or utilise a trading site to buy and sell used goods.

Dispose of waste correctly

- Ensure that any hazardous material is disposed of correctly
- Use composts for reducing garden waste
- Use worm composts for getting rid of food scraps.

Recycle

- Contact your local council to find out what materials are recyclable in your area
- Recycle plastics, paper, cardboard, egg cartons, glass, car batteries, paint, hazardous waste, steel and aluminium cans where facilities are available
- Buy products with recycled content, like recycled paper products
- Return expanded polystyrene, plastic film wrapping, cardboard and other bulky packaging to the store where you purchased the item - much of this is recyclable and many larger stores collect and recycle these.

Waste and recycling initiatives and information

- [Hazmobile](#) - a regional mobile service that collects hazardous household waste
- Contact the [RENEW waste exchange](#) for information about recyclers throughout the region
- [Recycling Operators of New Zealand \(RONZ\)](#)
- [School education programmes](#)
- [Zero Waste](#) - provides information on products made from recycled materials in New Zealand
- [Freecycle](#) - an Auckland-wide group covering the whole of the Auckland region where people 'give' their old/unwanted items to others who want them and old items are reused by the new owner instead of throwing it into the landfill.
- [Donate NZ](#) - get rid of your unwanted stuff to a good home, support your local community and help save the environment!

For a list of the [business and industry initiatives](#) take this link.

[Continue to Business waste and recycling](#)



RELATED LINKS

- [Resource Management Act 1991 \(RMA\)](#)
- [Hazardous Activities and Industries List \(HAIL\)](#)
- [Pollution education resources](#)