



BIN IT IN THE RIGHT BIN

Installing recycling bins is just half the job. To ensure proper recycling, you need to know what is the right bin for your trash. When trash is not properly segregated, it can sometimes send the entire bin to a landfill. Outpost Iraq Dubai tells you how to use the right bin every time!

CANS AND BOTTLES ONLY

What to throw: Clear and colored plastic containers, bottles, jars. Please rinse and remove all lids/caps and put lids in garbage (lids are a different type of plastic and NOT recyclable). If there is not a clearly marked chasing arrow recycling on the container please place in trash. DO NOT place any bags or plastic film in the recycling bins. Reuse these or throw away.

What not to throw: Paper, food waste, liquids. Any contamination by food waste and liquids makes the process even lengthier and often contaminates recyclables and sends them to a landfill.

PAPER ONLY

What to throw: Office paper, colored and white (staples okay), magazines and catalogs, newspaper, including inserts, Junk mail (windowed envelopes okay), phone books, computer paper, mixed corrugated cardboard, paperboard, brown paper bags, cardboard egg cartons.

What not to throw: Dirty recycling like throwing in oily and food contaminated paper, cardboard boxes. These often end up in landfills. Plastic bags should not be thrown, NO waxed cardboard (like milk cartons) or non-cardboard packing materials.

GENERAL WASTE ONLY

What to throw: This is waste that cannot be recycled. This is also called residual waste. Non-recyclable plastics, polythene, some packaging and kitchen scraps.

What not to throw: Medical waste, paint cans, motor oil, wax or petroleum, rocks, bricks and gravel, electrical goods – please recycle through waste recycling facilities, hazardous and medical waste.

Source:
thewastenotproject.org

RECYCLING AND REPURPOSING WASTE AT HOME

Outpost Iraq Dubai's Danielle Ballantyne shares how she recycles and repurposes waste at home and how she does her bit for the environment.



Repurposed tins. Photo courtesy: Bernard Hermant on unsplash.com

- I collect egg shells from the kitchen and then rinse, dry and store them. When my container is full, I blitz them in the blender and use the powder in the garden as a fertilizer. It is as a good source of calcium for the plants. It is important though, to be aware of what plants like calcium in your garden.
- After brushing my dog, I peg the hair to a tree branch so that the birds can use it when they are making nests.
- I am conscious of packaging before I even purchase items. I try to refrain from buying items that have lots of packaging. It does not make sense for me to buy a food item if it is packaged in polystyrene, has foil lids or has a paper label but is wrapped in plastic. I find that wasteful.

- I also carry reusable shopping bags and have them in the car when shopping to reduce the amount of plastic bags I use.
- From my humanitarian experience, I have really seen people with nothing. I try to fix things that are broken before throwing away. Donate items that I do not need anymore, for example collecting the hotel shampoos, toiletries etc. I have given such items to female rangers in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to women's refuge shelters. Here in Dubai, if you have unwanted items you can contact some animal shelters as some collect to sell at flea markets to raise funds.