

Empowering the circular economy through recycling

10 recyclables you should be keeping out of your bin for recycling collectors

The growth of the informal recycling sector has grown over the years. Waste is not waste if it has value: value for people, the economy, and the environment.

Covering significant distances on foot every day, collectors weave through suburbs, cities and communities to retrieve 'waste' in return for cash. Recycling ensures that valuable materials are diverted away from landfills, which are rapidly reaching capacity. These materials are sorted and sent to recycling mills and factories for conversion into usable and commercially viable products.

Recycling collectors do not take all recyclables

Several recyclables are like gold for waste collectors, but unfortunately just because it's recyclable or recycled in South Africa, does not mean a waste collector will take it. They will only take items for which they will earn money, and they will not take items that they cannot sell or which are too heavy to pull over long distances.

With a bit of kindness and thought about your own refuse habits, you can make their work a little quicker and easier.

Keeping recyclable paper clean and dry is paramount. As a raw material that can be used in new paper products, it should not be contaminated by wet and rotting food waste, liquids or pet waste.

Golden rules for recycling

1. Separate recyclables and food/wet waste.
2. Get a bin, box or bucket for your recyclables. Recycling containers don't need to be fancy or expensive.
3. Keep paper recyclables clean and dry.
4. Give plastic, glass and cans a light rinse if needed, using dirty dish water.
5. Get the family involved and make sure everyone knows what is recyclable.

10 items things to keep aside for waste collectors

1. Brown cardboard boxes
2. Food packaging such as cereal, pizza and take-away boxes (remove food residue)
3. Grocery delivery bags and take-away bags
4. Used office paper
5. Plastic milk bottles
6. PET soft drink bottles - various sizes
7. Fabric softener bottles
8. Milk and juice cartons (depending on the area)
9. Aluminium soft drink cans
10. Food cans

Fibre Circle
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATION

Putting people, paper and the planet at the centre of the circular economy.