



# HOW TO MANAGE WASTE IN A SEPARATION AT SOURCE RECYCLING PROJECT



Roughly **one-third of the edible parts of food** produced for human consumption is wasted globally, which is about

**1.3 BILLION TONS PER YEAR!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

The amount of food waste produced globally each year is enough to feed about

**1 BILLION HUNGRY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD!**



### How to register for the Pilot Separation at Source Project:

- ✉ [wmeu@mandelametro.gov.za](mailto:wmeu@mandelametro.gov.za)
- 🌐 [www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/page/pilot-ss-separation-at-source](http://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/page/pilot-ss-separation-at-source)
- 📞 Queries: 041 506 2833 (O/H)

### For more information on waste management:

- 🗑️ [www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/page/my-waste](http://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/page/my-waste)



## HOW SHOULD I MANAGE MY WASTE AT HOME?

Waste should be handled according to South Africa's Waste Management Hierarchy – this means choosing to reduce, re-use or recycle as many types of materials and as many times as we can before disposing of waste. The SA Waste Management Hierarchy is summarised in the diagram below.



## HOW CAN I REDUCE WASTE AT HOME?

- Avoid using disposable or 'single-use' products, such as disposable plates and cups, razors, cameras and bottled water. Look for alternatives such as rechargeable batteries and glass water bottles.
- Avoid buying products that have lots of packaging.
- Use re-usable carrier bags rather than disposable bags.
- Buy only what you need and consider buying long lasting food or household products in bulk, refills or concentrates, as these generally require less packaging.
- Buy products that are made from recycled materials, such as handbags with recycled plastic content.
- Buy local products, as these generally require less packaging and fuel for transportation.
- Limit your purchases of perishable food. This may mean going to the grocery store more often, and buying less food each time. Plan meals before shopping.
- Freeze or preserve foods, and check expiry dates before purchasing.

## HOW CAN I RE-USE AT HOME?

- Donate unwanted gifts, clothes, furniture, toys or books to friends or to charity. Books can be donated to schools and libraries or taken to book exchange shops. Clothes and other useful items can be donated to the homeless through charity organisations or churches.
- Re-use a plastic or material bag instead of buying a plastic bag for your shopping. Consider buying a glass/metal water bottle and flask for drinks instead of purchasing take-away cups.
- Repair items such as clothes, shoes and toys rather than throwing them away. There are many businesses in our Metro that specialise in repairs.
- Return glass bottles to shops for re-use.
- Store food in re-usable containers rather than non-recyclable clingwrap or foil. Give spare food to someone in need.
- Re-use scrap paper as notepads. Use both sides of paper before recycling it. Re-use gift wrap and other packaging.

## FIND NEW USES FOR ITEMS:

- Use plastic tubs/bottles/cartons as pots for planting seedlings.
- Use glass jars/tins to store kitchen or craft items.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Every year, globally, 8 million metric tons of plastic end up in our oceans. This is equivalent to five grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world! (NCEAS, 2015).

## WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED IN A SOURCE SEPARATION PROJECT?

Waste that can be kept for an extended period without decomposing such:

- Paper – newspapers, magazines, books, printer paper.
- Cardboard – corrugated and cereal medicine boxes.
- Carton – long life milk & juice boxes.
- Soft plastics (stretchy) – carry bags, cling wrap.
- Hard plastics - cooldrink bottles, milk bottles, yoghurt & margarine tubs.
- Most plastics packaging items have recycling logos imprinted on them to help you identify the kind of plastic – look for a recycling triangle with a number.
- Metal (aluminium & metal) – beverage cans, food plates.
- Glass – glass bottles, glass jars.
- Polystyrene cups and fruit punnets.

## WASTE THAT REMAIN GENERAL WASTE?

- Nappies, tissues, sanitary products.
- Any wet, dirty, or contaminated items like take away containers.
- Multi-layer plastics i.e. chips packets, washing powder packets, dog food packets, toothpaste tubes.
- Any green, brown, black, or clear plastic food trays and punnets.
- Wax coated soda cups, straws.
- Organic waste and food scraps – this can be composted at home.
- Old clothing and shoes – donate to charity shops.

## TOP TIPS FOR RECYCLING:

- Separate the items that you wish to recycle and ensure that the products you have selected can indeed be recycled.
- Its advisable that all recyclables be rinsed/washed, preferably with used/grey water.
- Once rinsed/washed, allow the item to air dry.
- It is not necessary to remove labels from jars, cans and containers.
- Empty all liquid waste containers prior to placing it in the recycling bag.
- Store your recyclables in your kitchen or a place that is easy to reach and not far from where you generate the waste.
- Store perishable recyclables in a dry place that is protected from water/rain.
- Don't break glass to reduce volume as broken glass is dangerous to handle.
- Squashing your plastic bottles, tins and cans makes them smaller and more can fit in your bag.
- Look for the plastic identification code at the bottom of the container to determine what type of plastic you have - **NOT ALL IS RECYCLABLE.**

## HOW CAN I DISPOSE OF WASTE RESPONSIBLY?

Dispose of general waste that cannot be recycled into a black bag for kerbside collection. Refer to the refuse collection schedule on the NMBM website, to check what days waste is collected in your suburb. Prevent your black bags from being ripped by dogs, by taking out waste at 06h00 on the morning of collection or by placing them in a raised or vermin-proof container.

## DID YOU KNOW?

It is illegal to burn or bury waste at your home. Dumping waste anywhere except at a permitted landfill site or drop-off site is an offence you can be fined every time you are caught dumping waste illegally.

**Bulky waste** such as broken furniture and appliances and garden cuttings will not be collected by the municipal collection service and must be taken to a nearby drop-off site. Refer to the NMBM website or contact the NMBM to find out where your closest drop-off site is.

**Hazardous waste** such as light-bulbs and hazardous chemical containers should be taken to a hazardous waste drop-off point or to a hazardous landfill. Expired medicine should be taken back to a pharmacy.

**E-waste (Electronic Waste)** such as items with a plug, battery, or electronic component can and should be recycled. Look out for drop-off points or the following websites also provide waste drop-off site location search engines that can help you locate your nearest drop-off point for a variety of waste types: [www.petco.co.za](http://www.petco.co.za); [www.mywaste.co.za](http://www.mywaste.co.za); [www.plasticsinfo.co.za](http://www.plasticsinfo.co.za)

## TOP TIPS FOR HOME COMPOSTING:

The ratio of "green" or garden waste to "browns" food waste should be at least 2:1.

**"Browns"** (carbon-rich materials) include: Fresh leaves, coffee grounds, newspaper strips, sawdust, straw, fruit scraps, bark, pine needles, tea bags, eggshells.

**"Greens"** (nitrogen-rich materials) include: Food waste, vegetable peels, hay, grass clippings, garden waste. Browns and Greens should be layered or well mixed.

The volume in the heap is important; the heap should be at least 1 cubic meter in size. Air flow through the heap is important so choose a ventilated container and turn the heap every week. The heap needs to be moist, similar to a wrung out sponge. Water the heap to maintain moisture. Grey water from bathing or a washing machine can be used instead of potable (drinking) water.

It can take between 1-12 months to produce compost. The time it takes will vary widely depending on the materials and methods used. Compost is ready when dark and crumbly and mostly broken down with an earthy, soil-like smell. It can be used as a fertilizer or medium for growing plants such as flowers and vegetables. For more information visit: [www.compost-info-guide.com](http://www.compost-info-guide.com)