

Household collection and recycling guide

Aim of the Guide: To assist households with collecting and recycling recyclable materials.

Introduction

Whether you live in a stand-alone house, cottage, flatlet, semi-detached house or townhouse collection and recycling can be easily practiced. Collection and recycling are major components and a good way to contribute positively to the environment while creating income opportunities. If you feel like it can be difficult to collect and recycle in your house, here are some tips so that you can get collection and recycling going.

What is PET plastic?

PET (short for the chemical name “Polyethylene terephthalate”) is the type of plastic labelled with the #1 “polymer identification code” (in a triangle) on or near the bottom of bottles and containers. It is recognizable as an imprint on containers (either transparent or white or any other colour) used to package bottled water, fizzy drinks, sports drinks, water, juice, household cleaners and food trays.

In South Africa empty, discarded PET bottles along with their labels and closures are collected, then flattened and bundled up into big blocks (baled) and delivered to the recycling plant where they are colour sorted, washed, chopped into small particles (granulated), re-washed to ensure that the labels and closures are separated from the PET plastic bottle, and extruded (melted down and then made into long thin string of plastics that look like noodles). Those strings are then cut into small pieces (pellets) and are sold to manufacturers where they are reprocessed into a number of items we enjoy every day including polyester fibre filling for our pillows, sleeping bags and winter coats, carpets in cars, fleece shirts, but most importantly as recycled PET (rPET) containers containing a percentage of recycled content and even bottles.

What are liquid board cartons?

Liquid Board Packaging (LBP) is a multi-layer paperboard material that contains layers of polyethylene (plastic), aluminium and paper. LBP is commonly referred to as “liquid board cartons”. These cartons are widely used to package milk, juice, custard and 1-litre wine cartons.

The paper component of liquid board cartons is mainly made from renewable sources. In sustainably-managed forests, the harvested trees are replaced with new ones. These forests help to keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere while producing renewable wood because the carbon remains locked in the wood and products made from it (such as paper or liquid board cartons).

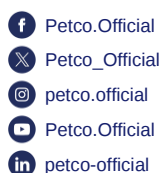
Liquid board cartons are recyclable where adequate collection, waste management and recycling infrastructures are in place, and local criteria are met. Instead of the liquid board cartons ending up

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as waste in South African landfills, many are being recycled for reuse. These items are lightweight and cost-effective to transport, which makes them an affordable packaging choice. They have an excellent product-to-packaging ratio, meaning that there is a large amount of product compared to the packaging material. This means less waste and more convenience such as for storage at home.

Paper manufacturers use the long paper fibre contents of used liquid board cartons to manufacture new paper and carton products, while the other layers (polyAl layers) are recycled into products such as plastic pallets, milk crates, clothes hangers, outdoor furniture, school desks and building materials. Because they are made of renewable and recyclable materials, they represent a responsible environmental choice.

Why collect and recycle PET plastics?

Well-designed PET packaging is technically 100% recyclable. It is lightweight and strong and can be transported efficiently.

When recycled, PET creates income opportunities and can greatly reduce fuel use, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The PET that is removed from the waste stream results in less waste going to landfill sites and reduces the amount of natural resources needed to make certain products, thereby reducing the impact on the Earth and the environment. Recycling of PET fits well into the concept of the Circular Economy and closed-loop thinking which looks at a cradle-to-cradle approach and aims to design waste out of a system by ensuring that recyclable materials from one product or process become a resource for another. This reduces the need for additional resources and eliminates waste from the outset.

Why collect and recycle liquid board cartons?

These cartons are used to contain products like fruit juice, custard and long-life, extended-life and fresh milk and are made from a multi-layered mix of materials - mostly paperboard, together with very thin layers of plastic and aluminium. Liquid board cartons are recyclable. Instead of the liquid board cartons ending up as waste in South African landfills, many are being recycled for reuse.

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How to start – 6 easy steps!

1. Conduct research

Kickstart your recycling journey by conducting a quick online search to see what you can do with your recyclables once you have collected them. Look for a nearby drop-off site, buy-



back centre or collection service to make sure that your collections take the next step of the journey.

2. Mindful shopping

Choose products with packaging that explicitly indicates recyclability. Look for on pack recycling labels that say “recyclable” or “non-recyclable” on the packaging while shopping. Ask at the drop-off site, buy-back centre or your collection service which materials they want so that you can try to buy products in this packaging.

3. Optimise bin setup

Streamline your home recycling with a simple bin system. Utilise two bins – one for regular household waste and the other for recyclables (and ideally one for organic waste). Alternatively, modify your existing container, designating one side for recyclables and the other for general waste. You can find some options [here](#).



4. Water-saving rinse

Clean off your used recyclable materials to prevent contamination of the recyclable materials by food or drink. To avoid wasting water, don't forget to rinse them with used dishwater. This also provides a cleaner working environment for collectors.

5. Clear vs. black bags

Differentiate between recyclables and regular household waste by using clear bags for recyclable materials and black bags for general rubbish. This simple practice aids in efficient sorting and collection processes.

6. Ensure proper disposal

Ensure that your recyclables can continue on the journey. **Put it out:** for an informal collector, a municipal kerbside collection project or employ an SMME to collect. **Drop it off:** at a buy-back centre or drop-off site.

Please have a look at our website to find a way to responsibly dispose of your recyclables.



Who will collect? Where should I take my recycling?

1. Visit Petco to find a buy-back centre or find a collection service or a drop-off site.
2. Visit [Postwink](#) to find someone to collect your recyclable materials.
3. Visit if you are in [Cape Town](#)
4. Visit if you are in [Johannesburg](#)
5. We also recommend a simple Google search to find a collection service that services your area.

Do's and Don'ts

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Do's and Don'ts

Contributing to a cleaner environment and a better life for all by collecting recyclable materials is easy. Here are some things you can do:

1. **DON'T** simply throw away anything that can be recycled with other non-recyclable or wet food waste or as litter on the street.
2. **DON'T** collect PET bottles that are coloured, have a metal cap and closure or are biodegradable or compostable – these things all contaminate the PET recycling stream.
3. **DO** separate your recyclable materials from your other non-recyclable or wet food waste and put it out separately in a clear bag on refuse collection day.
4. **DO** remove the lid, squash your PET bottle or liquid board carton, and then put the lid back on before placing it in the separate recycling bin.
5. **DO** remove PVC or PET shrink-sleeve labels from your PET bottles.
6. **DO** speak to your collector/recycler upfront about anything you are unclear about in terms of what they want.
7. **DO** pick up any recyclable materials you see lying around on the street and elsewhere to put them in a recycling container.
8. **DO** look out for the special, clearly marked collection containers for recyclable materials at many public places such as shopping centres and use them to deposit your used recyclable materials.
9. **DO** join recycling schemes at your local school or other recycling initiatives in your community.
10. **DO** teach your family and friends to be aware of the importance of recycling and encourage them to talk to their friends about it as well.



11. **DO** take your clear bag of separated recyclable materials to your closest collection point or drop-off site, if your municipality does not pick it up separately. If the Municipality has a recycling collection scheme in place, then the bag will be collected. If not, a collector collecting it for money may pick it up or if it does end up on a landfill site, then putting them in a clear bag will make it easier for waste collectors to detect it.

Who is Petco and how can we help you?

Petco Producer Responsibility Organisation NPC is a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), incorporated in 2004, that administers Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes on behalf of its members for various identified products in the packaging sector. Petco serves as a national organisation responsible for driving recycling activities, unlocking the collection and recycling value chain, guiding product design, stimulating end-use markets for recycled material, carrying out education and awareness initiatives and building the required local recycling infrastructure and capacity.

Petco serves as a catalyst for turning intentions into tangible actions. As a collective organisation deeply committed to fostering a circular economy, Petco recognises the vital role that households play in responsible waste management. To make this commitment tangible, Petco provides educational materials designed for households. These resources serve to demystify the intricacies of recycling, making it more accessible and understandable for every member of the household. But our support doesn't stop there. Recognising the practical challenges of collecting and recycling, Petco offers material collection bags, simplifying the process of gathering and transporting materials to designated recycling centres.

Useful Contacts

Visit www.petco.co.za for a list of collection points, drop off sites and buy-back centres.

You could also contact some other industry bodies for general assistance or information about other material streams. Here are some of them:

- Institute of Waste Management www.iwmsa.co.za
- National Recycling Forum www.recycling.co.za
- Packaging SA www.packagingsa.co.za
- Plastics SA www.plasticsinfo.co.za

Contact Petco

Call toll free: 011 615 8875 (JHB)/ 021 794 6300 (CPT)
Email: info@petco.co.za
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