

WASTE FACTSHEET

GENERAL WASTE & LANDFILL



'General waste' is the term given to waste which can't be recovered through kerbside recycling or specialised recycling services. If you can't find another use for these items, they must be disposed of via the red-lid general waste bin.

WHAT ITEMS ARE ACCEPTED IN MY GENERAL WASTE BIN?

The following items can be placed in your general waste bin:



			
	Plastic bags/packets	Bagged garbage	Non-recyclable metal
			
	Polystyrene (foam)	Food	Garden waste
			
	Ceramics	Drinking glasses & window glass	Non-recyclable hard plastics
			
	Shoes, clothes & textiles	Tissues, paper towel & sanitary items	

The following items should NOT be placed in your general waste bin:



			
Recyclables	Chemicals & chemical drums	Building materials	Rocks & soil
			
Oli, paint & batteries	Electrical items, fluoro globes & tubes	Gas bottles & fire extinguishers	Syringes & medical waste

WHERE DOES MY GENERAL WASTE GO?

Your general waste is sent to the Leeton Landfill and Recycling Centre, on Corbie Hill Road, where it is tipped into the landfill, compacted and buried. The landfill opened in 2006 and is projected to last 64 years. However, by reducing our current rate of waste production, we can extend the lifespan of the landfill and remove the need to keep building new ones.

WASTE FACTSHEET

GENERAL WASTE & LANDFILL



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL



The process of landfilling waste is not optimal, however it is the only viable method of disposing of waste materials that cannot currently be recycled or reprocessed.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Australia is one of the most wasteful countries in the developed world and every year, the waste we generate is growing at twice the rate of our population. Two of our biggest challenges in the household is plastic and organic waste. It only takes 1 minute for Australians to produce 1 tonne of plastic waste and on average, 60% of the general waste sent to landfill is food and garden organics.

You can help by considering the waste hierarchy, which describes the best ways to manage our waste from the most, to least preferred option. By rethinking our approach to waste we can help save resources and reduce our reliance on landfills.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF LANDFILL?

Sending potentially recoverable waste to a landfill not only results in the loss of valuable resources, it also generates a number of environmental impacts.

Firstly, in order to create a new landfill, an area must be cleared in preparation. Land clearing can result in habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation – the damaging effects of which, lead to a loss of biodiversity (the variety of plant and animal life).

Excessive waste generation then reduces the life of a landfill, necessitating the creation of new sites, and so minimising the land space available for economic, environmental or social purposes that benefit our local community.

It should be noted that landfills are not designed to break down waste, they only store it. Although many of the waste materials will eventually decompose (hard plastics, as we know, likely won't), it is extremely slow. Some materials can take hundreds or even thousands of years to breakdown. When organic material such as food waste is buried in landfill, it breaks down anaerobically (without the presence of oxygen) and in doing so, releases harmful greenhouse gases, including large quantities of the greenhouse gas methane, which is 24 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Another pollutant known as 'leachate', is a highly toxic liquid that accumulates at the bottom of landfills. Modern day landfills have a number of technologies in place to capture and treat leachate to prevent it from escaping and damaging the local environment.

