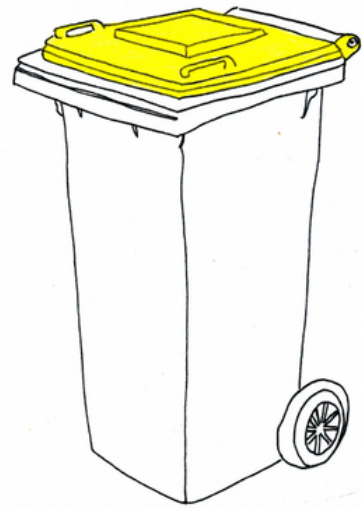


# Yellow Bin - General Recycling



It's bin day. You put out your yellow-lidded recycling bin and watch the rubbish truck arrive. The truck picks up the bin and collects your recycling. What happens next?

The truck takes your recycling to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The first thing that happens here is that workers manually remove anything that shouldn't be there (things that don't go in the recycling bin).

Then, machines will sort the recycling into different categories, like paper, plastic, aluminium and glass (if your general recycling bin takes it). These will all be made into large bundles.

The large bundles of different materials will then be transported to different factories where they will be turned into new materials:

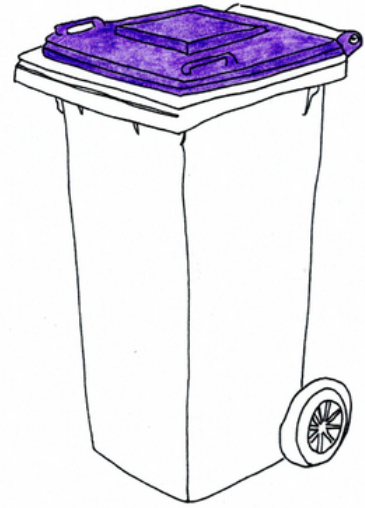
- Paper will be pulped and turned into new office paper, newspapers, and cardboard.
- Aluminium is taken to a facility called a smelter where it is melted and poured into new moulds to make new food and drink cans, window panes and car parts
- Plastics are turned into pellets which are then turned into new containers, bottles, bags, clothes and phone parts

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What should and shouldn't go into this bin?



# Purple Bin - Glass Recycling



It's bin day. You drag your purple-lidded recycling bin out onto the street (all that rattling glass sure makes a loud noise!). The truck picks up the bin and collects your glass recycling. What happens next?

The truck takes your glass recycling to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The first thing that happens here is that workers manually remove anything that shouldn't be there (things that don't go in the glass bin).

Then, machines will sort the glass into different types and colours of glass.

Then the glass will be crushed into small particles. These particles are then transported to a glass recycling plant.

At the glass recycling plant, the crushed glass will be cleaned and melted down to pour into moulds. Recycled glass can be turned into new bottles and jars.

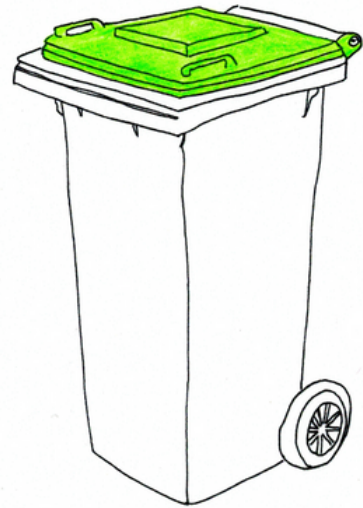
In some places, crushed glass will be used as a base for asphalt on our roads!

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What should and shouldn't go into this bin?



# Green Bin - Green Waste



It's bin day and it's green bin day! You make sure there aren't too many sticks and leaves sticking out of the bin, close the lid and get it onto the street. The truck picks up the bin and collects your green waste. What happens next?

Your green waste is first taken to a composting site. It doesn't just get thrown onto the compost heap though; firstly it is organised into different sizes.

When green waste (like garden leaves, grass, food scraps, and branches) is collected from your green bin, it gets taken to a special place called a composting facility.

First, workers sort the waste and remove anything that doesn't belong, like plastic or metal. Then, the green waste is chopped into small pieces to help it break down faster.

The waste is put into big piles, and over time, little organisms (tiny living things) break it down into compost. To help the waste turn into compost, the piles are stirred and kept wet, so the organisms can keep working.

After some weeks, the green waste turns into compost, which is like a rich, healthy soil. This compost is used to help plants grow in gardens, farms, and parks.

Some of the green waste is also turned into mulch, which helps keep the soil moist, stops weeds from growing, and protects plants.

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What should and shouldn't go into this bin?



# Red Bin - General Waste

It's bin day you have to get the red-lidded bin out quickly because the rubbish truck is at the end of your street! You and your family are pretty good at recycling so the bin is only half full!

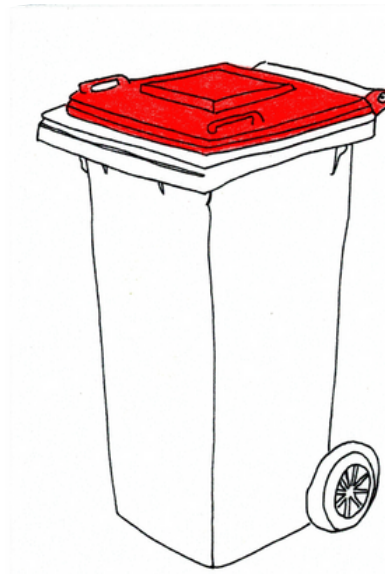
**The truck picks up the bin and collects your general waste. What happens next?**

The rubbish truck heads to a landfill site. The truck is emptied and leaves. The rubbish stays in the landfill site forever.

The landfill site is carefully managed so that it doesn't smell and so that it doesn't leak pollution into the soil or surrounding water courses.

Some of the waste will slowly break down, but some of it will take hundreds or thousands of years to decompose, for example:

- Banana - 3 to 4 weeks
- Paper bag - 1 month
- Milk carton - 3 months
- Sock - 1 year
- Cigarette butt - 10 years
- Plastic bag - 20 years
- Leather boot - 40 to 50 years
- Tin can - 200 to 500 years
- Plastic bottle - 400 years
- Disposable nappy - 475 years
- Fishing line - 600 years
- Glass bottles - unknown



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What should and shouldn't go into this bin?

