

REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE & RECOVER!

Every year, Australians throw away billions of glass containers and jars, tin cans and food packaging materials, but where does it all end up? The majority of our waste is sent to garbage dumps or landfill, where it can take up to 400 years for things like material or aluminium to decompose. 400 years is a long time, which means once that landfill is full, where do we put the garbage? We are running out of space very quickly, so it's time to use the four R's of the environment...reduce, re-use, recycle and recover!



REDUCE: Limit the amount of waste you create by reducing the amount of items you buy in non-recyclable packaging, or items that have excess packaging. Reducing is not limited to rubbish, so cut back on water use by having shorter showers and turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, save energy by turning off lights and power points when they are not in use, and walk or ride to school instead of taking the car.



RE-USE: Use something again that you would normally throw away. For example, plastic containers and jars can be used again to store food items for your lunch or leftovers from dinner. Clothes that you no longer wear, books you don't read or toys you don't use don't need to be thrown away, hand them to siblings or to the local Salvation Army store. Someone else can always use them!

RECYCLE: Many of the things we use every day like paper bags, soft drink cans and milk bottles are made out of materials that can be recycled. Recycled items are put through a process that makes it possible to create new products out of the materials from the old ones. In addition to recycling the things you buy, you can help the environment by buying products that contain recycled materials. Many brands of paper towels, garbage bags, greeting cards, and toilet paper will tell you on their labels if they are made from recycled materials.

RECOVER: During the recovery process, waste is converted into resources like electricity, fuel and compost, through thermal and biological method. This occurs only after reduce, re-use and recycle have been attempted.

DID YOU KNOW?

GLASS HAS BEEN FOUND ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG SITES IN PERFECT CONDITION, AFTER 4,000 YEARS OF BEING BURIED IN THE GROUND.



When an aluminium can is recycled we save enough electricity to run a TV set for 3 hours.



A 100 watt light bulb can be lit for 4 hours from the energy saved by recycling a glass bottle.



A plastic bag that is not biodegradable can take up to 400 years to be broken down.