

Reducing business waste – Retail



How to reduce your packaging waste

Retailers in NSW could collectively recycle an extra 31,665 tonnes of plastic and 35,937 tonnes of paper each year. This would fill 2.3 million shopping trolleys with plastic and 1.5 million shopping trolleys with paper each year¹.

A typical waste bin in a retail store contains around 60% of packaging materials, including paper, cardboard and plastic. Almost all of these could be recycled².

By avoiding, reducing, reusing and recycling packaging material your business could reduce costs.

Fifty-three per cent of businesses agree that efficient waste and recycling gives them a competitive edge³.

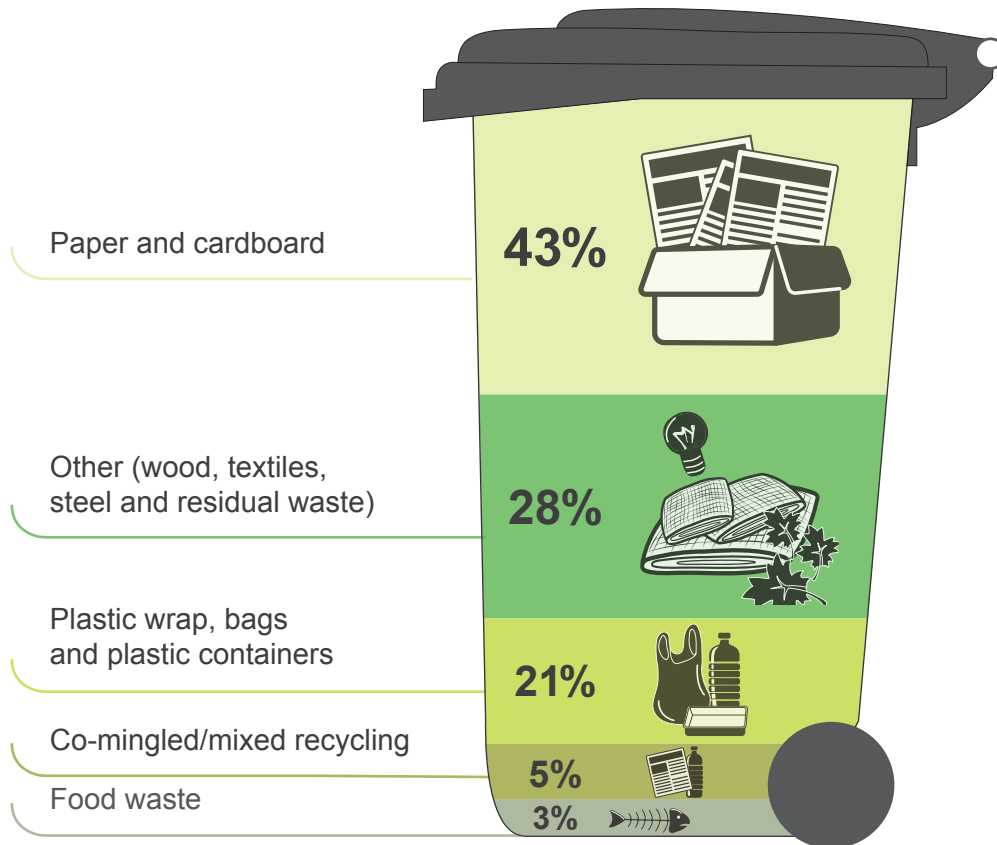
Forty-four per cent of retailers have discussed waste and recycling with their staff³.



Quick facts

Each year a typical retail store generates 7.5m³ of waste per employee and up to 1.7m³ of waste for every 1m² of floor space².

Contents of a typical waste bin in a retail store



Contents of a typical waste bin in a retail store (% volume of waste generated)²



Want to save on waste?

Join 20,000 businesses already recycling more with the EPA's Bin Trim Program. Get free advice and support to waste less and recycle more. Get up to \$50,000 back on recycling equipment. [Find a Bin Trim assessor online.](#)



What you can do

Avoid – how can you do it?

- Improve your stock control and order exactly what you need.
- Avoid using plastic containers or wrap.
- Provide reusable bags for your customers.
- Encourage customers to bring their own bags.

Reduce – how can you improve on it?

- Ask suppliers to take back pallets and other packaging materials.
- Ask suppliers to use less packaging.
- Ask suppliers to deliver goods in reusable containers.
- Ask suppliers to take-back unsold stock.

Reuse – how can it be used again?

- Donate unused, [good condition](#) stock such as furniture, clothes, materials and equipment to charities.

Recycle – how can you do more?

- Ask your waste or recycling service provider to help you recycle more. Many will help educate your staff and provide signage to support your recycling program.
- Recycle additional packaging materials like cardboard and plastic wrap. Consider using a baler for these.
- Make sure that staff, contractors and cleaners know about your recycling program and put materials in the correct bins.
- Install clear [recycling signs](#) in the bin room, staff areas, stock rooms, and in-store.
- Keep bins and bin rooms clean and uncluttered.
- If you are a tenant in a shopping complex, ask the centre management to set up a recycling service for you.
- Consider sharing recycling bins and equipment with neighbouring businesses.

You are responsible for making sure your waste is transported to a facility that is lawfully able to accept that type of waste. Make sure you understand [your responsibilities under the law](#).

What else can you do?

- Gain commitment from your senior managers to waste less and recycle more.
- Appoint a staff champion to drive your waste reduction and recycling program.
- Include your recycling program in your staff induction program.
- Regularly [monitor](#) the amount and type of waste that goes into your waste or recycling bins.
- Put together a [plan](#) to improve your waste and recycling.
- Reward staff for reducing waste, recycling more and using the correct bins.



Return packaging and save

Art retailers are returning plastic paint tube packaging to paint manufacturer and EPA [Bin Trim](#) participant, Derivan Matisse, for reuse. This is saving costs for both retailers and manufacturer. [Join Bin Trim now.](#)



View video:
[Painting a better future](#)



Share recycling equipment and halve waste

After a an EPA [Bin Trim](#) assessment, Mirvac installed a plastic film baler and food processing equipment for tenants at Cherrybrook shopping village. This halved the amount of waste that was sent to landfill. [Join Bin Trim now.](#)



Good Guys Rockdale saves over \$10,000 per year

Through participating in the EPA's [Bin Trim](#) Program the Good Guys Rockdale saves over \$10,000 each year in waste costs. The Bin Trim assessor, Mil-tek completed a waste assessment for the business and found that over 80% of the bin's contents contained recyclable materials, including expanded polystyrene (EPS) and plastic wrap. Mil-tek assisted the Good Guys to purchase and install an EPS compressor and a plastic wrap baler. The EPA provided a [50% rebate](#) on the cost of the equipment. Previously, the Good Guys Rockdale had three 3m³ bins emptied every week. Now they have one 1m³ bin emptied every fortnight. [Join Bin Trim now.](#)

View video:

[Good Guys great at recycling](#)

How can you get more information?

Contact the EPA Business Recycling Unit, Waste and Resource Recovery. Phone: 131 555 | Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

References

¹ EPA 2015, *Disposal-based Audit Commercial and Industrial Waste Stream in the Regulated Areas of New South Wales – Main Report*, NSW Environment Protection Authority, Sydney (www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/warrlocal/150209-disposal-audit.pdf).

² EPA (unpub.), 'Final Report and Attachments: Industry Specific Data Analysis of Bin Trim Round 1, 2016', Environment Protection Authority, Sydney.

³ EPA 2016, *Social Research on Small to Medium Enterprises (SME) Waste and Recycling: Summary Benchmark Study*, NSW Environment Protection Authority, Sydney (www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/waste/small-medium-business-recycling-research-160139.pdf)



Find a recycler

Visit BusinessRecycling.com.au or phone the Business Recycling Hotline on 1300 763 768 to find a recycling service to suit your business. Use the Planet Ark resource on [choosing the right recycler.](#)

Photos

page 1: Good Guys Rockdale, Jefferson Grainger, Grainger Films
page 2: Modern Tiles Erina, Jefferson Grainger, Grainger Films
page 3: Derivan Matisse, Jefferson Grainger, Grainger Films
page 4: Good Guys Rockdale, Jefferson Grainger, Grainger Films

Environment Protection Authority
Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au
ISBN 978-1-76039-460-8 | EPA 2016/0501
March 2017