

Fact Sheet

Glass

Glass bottles and jars are perfect for reuse around the home and are 100% recyclable!

Recycling Process

Not only are glass bottles and jars 100% recyclable, they are easy products to recycle or reuse, saving both natural resources and landfill space. Mixed crushed glass (cullet) from recycled products is now a main material for making glass.

Glass bottles and jars collected from your kerbside recycling bin are sorted by hand at your local Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Glass is sorted into its various colours, clear (white), brown (amber) and green. The colour of the cullet determines the colour of the new bottles. If the various colours of glass are mixed they will make amber bottles.

After being sorted at the MRF, the glass is taken to a "beneficiation" plant where it is crushed, cleaned and sized. The glass is then melted down, mixed with cullet and remoulded back into new bottles and jars. Extra sorting is necessary to remove any impurities such as pyrex, ceramics, china, bone, oven proof glass and any other product that will not melt down. It is very important that these items are not placed in the recycling bin, because even the smallest of impurities can cause problems – such as a chip or weak point that may cause a bottle to explode when it is being filled or opened. A piece of non-recyclable glass as small as a 10c coin can mean an entire tonne of recyclable glass has to be rejected and sent to landfill.

Glass recycling tips

- Remove all lids, caps and labels from bottles and jars
- Rinse out bottles and jars

What can/cannot be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin?



- Glass bottles and jars
- ONLY glass bottles and jars that have contained food or drink in them. This includes all shapes, sizes or colours.



- Ovenproof dishes - pyrex or microwave
- Drink and wine glasses
- Opaque bottles that you cannot see through
- Light bulbs
- Window and windscreen glass
- Spectacles/sunglasses
- Mirrors

Did you know...?

Every tonne of cullet (crushed used glass) recycled saves 1.1 tonnes of raw materials.

Making glass from recycled materials requires only 40% of the energy necessary to make glass from sand. This is because recycle glass melts at a lower temperature.

Every year Australians recycle 360,000 tonnes of glass, which means around 1.2 billion bottles diverted away from landfill.

Each year ACI Australia manufactures more than one million tonnes of glass. On average, recycled glass bottles and jars currently make up over 40% of new glass produced.

When compared to other materials that generally go to a landfill, glass takes the longest time to breakdown, requiring 1 million years to decompose. This makes your recycling and reuse of glass materials critical.