

# HOUSEHOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT GUIDE

## What is waste?

Waste is any material that gets thrown away because we consider it to be useless. The used paper, plastic bags, tyres, bottles and cans that end up in landfills or on our streets are all examples of waste.

## Why manage waste?

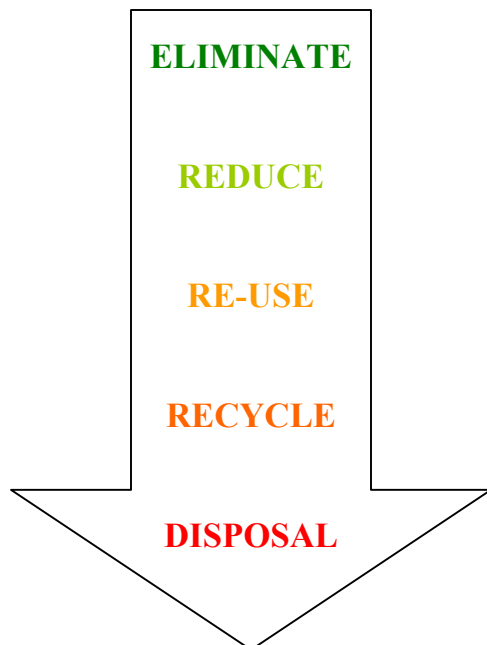
Most of our rubbish is buried in the ground in massive landfill sites. The problem is we don't have enough facilities to cope with the ever-increasing amount of rubbish. In South Africa we throw away over 566 million tonnes of rubbish each year. We can't just keep burying our rubbish and hoping it will go away because it won't.

## You can make a difference if you Rethink your Rubbish and Recycle!

Did you know that every plastic bag buried in landfill takes 100 years to decompose?

## The waste hierarchy

To help keep some of this waste out of landfill sites we can follow the waste hierarchy of eliminate, reduce, re-use, recycle, dispose.



- **Eliminate:** try to avoid producing waste in the first place – look at what you buy
- **Reduce:** minimise the amount of waste you produce
- **Re-use:** use items as many times as possible
- **Recycle:** recycle what you can
- **Disposal:** dispose of what's left in a responsible way

## TOP TIPS

### Ways to reduce your waste

- Avoid buying goods with lots of packaging e.g. plastic-wrapped vegetables on polystyrene trays. Buy in bulk - this gives you more product and less packaging.
- Take a cloth bag or rucksack when shopping to avoid using carrier bags
- Buy rechargeable items instead of disposable ones e.g. batteries and cameras
- Buy things in refillable containers e.g. cleaning products, ink cartridges
- Repair broken appliances rather than buying new ones



### Ways to re-use waste

- Re-use old carrier bags when shopping or as bin liners
- Donate old computers, furniture, clothing and books etc to community groups, schools or charities who can use them again
- Use washable reusable nappies rather than disposable ones
- Re-use scrap paper for writing notes, animal bedding etc. Re-use envelopes - stick labels over the address
- Re-use food containers such as ice-cream containers for lunch boxes or to storage food in
- Join the freecycle network. This web-based site connects people who are throwing away unwanted items with others who would like to have them. All items are free. Visit <http://www.freecycle.org/groups/allothercountries/> to find your local group. If no group exists then why not start a new group in your area?



## Ways to recycle waste

- Make use of local recycling banks or take your waste to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Dal Josafat. Items commonly recycled include paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, tins and cans
- Recycle old mobile phones and print cartridges – ask your Municipality for more details
- Separate out vegetable peelings for composting (you can also put paper, cardboard, garden waste, hair and dust in the compost bin)



## Buying recycled products

Buying recycled products such as paper and stationery products, toilet paper and refuse sacks helps to support the recycling process



Before you buy any product ask yourself the following questions:

- Is it made from recycled materials?
- Is it made from marked and easily recycled materials, such as paper, glass or wood?
- Are its component materials easy to separate for recycling?
- Is its packaging easily recyclable?

# What happens to our waste in the Drakenstein area?



Rubbish is collected from your house



It is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where people take out any materials which can be recycled



Materials which can't be recycled are taken to a landfill site



Recyclable materials are collected and made into new materials

Sorting materials for recycling at the materials recycling facility (MRF) isn't as good as collecting materials for recycling separately because when mixed with other waste they get dirty. Sometimes this means they can no longer be recycled. If items are collected separately then they can be sent for recycling straight away without going to the materials recycling facility first.

So remember to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste. It is much better to reduce waste in the first place as then there is less to deal with. Reusing things is the second best option as it saves you buying new things. After you have reduced and reused as much as you can, recycle.

### **More information/contacts**

- [www.wastenot.co.za](http://www.wastenot.co.za) – general waste information
- Local landfill site: Wellington landfill, Interpace Street, Wellington (near Industrial Park). Tel: 021 873 2530
- Materials Recycling Facility (MRF): Distillery Street, Huguenot, Paarl. Tel: 021 807 4715/ 021 807 4751
- Operating hours for landfill site and MRF
  - Monday – Thursday, Saturdays & Public Holidays: 8am - 4pm; Friday: 8am – 3.30pm; Sundays & Religious Holidays: Closed
- Residents in Drakenstein (not businesses) can dispose up to five bakkie loads of refuse free of charge at the MRF of landfill site
- Recycling bank locations
  - Bottle banks – Bergriver Boulevard (near Brug str.), Main Road (near Zomerlust Spar), Paarl Rugby Clubhouse, Boy Louw Sportsgrounds
  - Cans – can be brought to MRF
  - Steel – L.O.Rall, Paarl Scrap Metal - Oosterland Street
  - Paper – Mr Paper – Vosmaar Street