Why Waste It?

An Ipswich residents guide to reducing, reusing and recycling.

LEADING THE WAY IN THE 3R’S
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
Welcome to Ipswich City Council's Why Waste It? booklet, a waste management guide for Ipswich residents. Everything you need to know is covered - from the standard domestic wheelie bin, recycling options, to the location of waste transfer stations.

This booklet will assist with tips on what to place in bins, where they are placed on the footpath and when they are placed out for emptying. This is important to make sure our drivers do not miss your bins.

All Councillors are committed to enhancing and protecting the environment in our community. Effective waste management plays an important role in achieving this aim.

Council's kerbside refuse and recycling service provides an easy way to responsibly dispose of household waste.

Our waste collection fleet is operated by Council staff. By keeping this important service run by our own staff, we maintain a high level of customer service and performance.

For well over a decade, Ipswich residents have recycled using our kerbside recycling service. Community support for these recycling programs has grown with increased community awareness of environmental issues.

It is clear that our community wants to recycle and contribute to protecting our environment. We recognise that sustainable recycling is reliant on affordability, community support, level of service and continuous improvement to increase efficiencies and effectiveness.

Cr Paul Pisasale
Mayor of Ipswich

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this information booklet which aims to answer any questions you may have about waste management in Ipswich.

Once upon a time, waste management was just about emptying bins. Today, it encompasses a wide range of services for both domestic and industrial customers.

In fact, Ipswich is leading the way in effective waste management solutions, covering everything from domestic wheelie bins to medical waste disposal.

Did you know, for instance, that Ipswich Waste Services can provide you with a skip for those big house and yard clean-ups? Or that our Public Resource Recovery Facilities have special collection points for items like oil and car batteries? These are the types of things that you will discover in the pages that follow.

In a world where the environment is a primary concern for us all, Ipswich City Council is committed to reducing the amount of waste generated throughout the City. Through Ipswich Waste Services, Council encourages all residents and business operators to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Read on for some excellent tips on how you can contribute to a cleaner, greener City.

Cr David Pahlke
Chairperson,
Business Units and Library Services Committee

http://waste.ipswich.qld.gov.au
Reducing, Reusing and Recycling offers an alternative to disposing of waste at the landfill. Adopting the 3R’s is an easy way of helping to minimise waste in an environmentally friendly way!

**Reduce:** Cut down on the amount of rubbish being produced by reducing the material we buy that ultimately becomes waste. This can be done by:

- Buying products that have less packaging and/ or packaging that can be recycled.
- Buy in bulk wherever possible.
- Use reusable bags/ green bags as an alternative to plastic bags.
- Borrow items that are not used very often.

**Reuse:** Before throwing anything away, think about how it could be reused.

- Reuse old envelopes for shopping lists or telephone notepads.
- Buy products that can be refilled.
- Reuse plastic containers and bottles.
- Donate old clothes and toys to a charity shop.
- Donate read magazines to doctor’s surgeries.

**Recycle:** This is the process of creating new products from discarded goods. A full list of items that can be recycled is given on page 6.

The recyclable items placed in the yellow-lidded recycling bin are taken to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Here the items will be sorted and baled up before being sent to recycling manufacturers and turned into a wide range of new products. There are many products now available in the supermarkets that have been recycled or have recycled content.

Read more about MRF’s on page 7.

**Benefits of the 3R’s**

- conserves natural resources.
- reduces greenhouse emissions and saves energy.
- saves space at landfill.
- creates jobs.
Ipswich Waste Services is a commercial business unit of Ipswich City Council. We have been established to ensure that a high level of waste services is provided to the community of Ipswich City on a cost effective and commercial basis. We hold an agreement with the Ipswich City Council to provide the entire domestic waste collection and disposal services within the City of Ipswich. Ipswich Waste Services also competes directly with private waste contractors for other waste collection and disposal services within Ipswich and surrounding local government areas.

At Ipswich Waste Services, we are committed to providing quality products and services that provide value to our customers. Everyone at Ipswich Waste Services has a focus on customer satisfaction. We listen closely to what our customers ask for and through effective communication, endeavour to meet or exceed their requirements. As a team, we offer experience, motivation and commitment in providing the best possible services for our clients. We are pleased to be of service and take pride in the quality of our work.

We believe in:

- Understanding the needs and expectations of our customers.
- Getting it right the first time and doing what we said we’d do.
- Providing a cost effective and efficient service.
- Explaining our decisions and keeping our customers informed.
- Being polite and helpful.
- Doing everything reasonably possible to make our services available to everyone, including people with special needs.
- Admitting if we don’t get it right and putting things right quickly.

Please contact us if we can assist you in any way with your waste management needs.

Craig Wilson
Manager Ipswich Waste Services.

http://waste.ipswich.qld.gov.au
Wheelie Bin Refuse and Recycling Service

All households are provided with a 240-litre green wheelie bin for refuse disposal. The refuse collection service is provided weekly.

Households are also provided with a 240-litre wheelie bin with a yellow lid for recyclable waste only. Household recyclables are collected fortnightly.

To check which day and week your bins are serviced, refer to your recycling calendar. A copy of the calendar is also available on the website.

Bin servicing information

- The refuse bins are emptied on the same day each week regardless of whether the collection day is a public holiday (this includes Christmas Day and Good Friday).
- The recycling bin is emptied every second garbage collection day. Refer to your recycling calendar for your recycling collection week.
- Collection times vary from week to week. Therefore place you bins out the night before or before 6:00am on the collection day.
- Make sure the bin lids close properly. No rubbish or recyclables should protrude from the bins. This avoids spilt waste when the bin is emptied.
- Ipswich Waste Services uses specially designed trucks to empty the bins so their positioning on the kerbside is important.

What cannot be placed in the refuse bin

- Building material.
- Rocks, earth and weeds.
- Loose garden waste.
- Hazardous liquids: oil, flammable liquids and paint.
- Hot ashes.

These items can be taken to the Public Resource Recovery facilities. Refer to pages 8 & 9.
Kerbside wheelie bin service FAQs:

Where should I place the bins?

- Not more than one metre from the kerb or road edge.
- In clear view of the road with the handles facing away from the road.
- With a space of approximately one metre between the bins.

Who owns the bins?

Both bins remain the property of Ipswich City Council and should not be used for any other purpose than the disposal of waste.

What if one of my bins has been damaged/ stolen?

Please contact the Customer Call centre on 3810 6666 to arrange for the bin to be replaced. If the damage is only minor, the bin will be repaired. The repair and replacement of bins damaged by normal wear and tear are provided by Ipswich Waste Services at no additional cost to the resident or ratepayer.

What do I do if my bin has been missed or is only half empty?

If your bin has not been serviced, either email us at ipswichwasteservices@ipswich.qld.gov.au or contact Ipswich City Council on 3810 6666 and tell the operator which bin has been missed – the refuse or recycling bin. Ipswich Waste Services will attempt to return to service missed bins on the same day. However in cases where this is not possible, the service will be carried out on the next working day.

Occasionally, a notice will be posted on the bin or placed in your letterbox giving a reason for non-collection. You may have to remove inappropriate material from the bin before it can be re-serviced or your bin may have been too heavy to service. Make sure you only place the correct items in both your refuse and recycling bin.

If your bin has not been totally emptied, check to see if the bin is jammed with rubbish. Large cardboard boxes, lawn clippings and garden waste often cause this problem. Check your bin and loosen any waste that has jammed. Rip up cardboard into smaller pieces and take large quantities of garden waste to the green waste disposal area at one of our Resource Recovery Facilities. Refer to page 8.

To request a re-service for either of your bins, email ipswichwasteservices@ipswich.qld.gov.au or phone Ipswich City Council on 3810 6666.
What goes in the recycling bins?

- Paper, newspapers, magazines.
- Cardboard boxes, packaging, cartons (no waxed cardboard).
- Glass bottles and jars.
- Rigid plastic bottles and containers (no styrofoam).
- Aluminium cans, steel cans and aerosols.

To avoid contamination, place ONLY these items in your recycling bin.

What NOT to recycle:

- No plastic bags.
- No crockery or china.
- No mirrors, plate glass or light bulbs.
- No garden waste or kitchen scraps.
- No chemicals, gas bottles or oil.
- No clothes, textile or fabric.
- No plastic furniture, hose or pipe.
- No disposable nappies, tissues or paper towels.
- No syringes.

Preparing items for recycling:

- Please place recyclables loosely in the bin, NOT in plastic bags.
- On plastic bottles and containers, look for the recycling symbol with a number from 1-7 or R.
- Rinse out all containers and remove lids.
- Only recycle clean paper and cardboard.

All recyclables are taken to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Read more about what happens at the MRF on page 7.
What happens at a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)?

The recycled waste is collected from your home through the kerbside recycling system and is transferred to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Gibson Island, Brisbane. At the MRF the comingled (mixed) recyclables are sorted into individual material categories and any contamination is removed. This is done mechanically and by hand.

The sorting process consists of six basic processes:

1. Upon arrival the recyclables are emptied into a receiving hopper.
2. The primary sorting of materials happens in a number of trommels (large drums with holes in the side). The trommels rotate and products of various sizes will fall through the holes onto sorting conveyor belts.
3. The conveyor belts pass under a large overhead magnet that removes all the steel items.
4. The materials then enter the air classifier. Here a strong air current is used to further segregate the materials on the basis of weight.
5. The remaining materials now pass through a stage of manual or hand separation. Individual categories of material are segregated and waste materials are removed.
6. Finally these materials are transported to a number of recycling manufacturers. Plastic, steel, aluminium, paper and cardboard are compressed into bales at the MRF to make transportation easier. Glass bottles are crushed into cullet and transported in skips.

It is important that at each stage of the MRF process that the product is free from contamination. Non-recyclable waste entering the MRF increases sorting costs and decreases the efficiency of the entire process. Please recycle only the correct materials (see page 6).
Ipswich Waste Services operates the following Public Resource Recovery Facilities for the recovery of waste materials for recycling and the disposal of residual waste that cannot be recycled.

**Riverview Recycling & Refuse Centre**
Riverview Road, Riverview
Open 7:00am-6:00pm seven days a week.
Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

**Rosewood Recycling & Refuse Centre**
Oakleigh Colliery Road, Rosewood
Open 7:00am-6:00pm (October-April)
Open 7:00am-5:00pm (May-September)
Seven days a week
Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

**Peak Crossing Recycling & Refuse Centre**
Faulkner Quarry Road, Peak Crossing
Open 9:00am-5:00pm (Saturday & Sunday only).
Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Charges apply for the receipt of all waste at the three sites. For details of the relevant costs, go to our website or contact Ipswich City Council on 3810 6666.

Please note that you need to provide proof of residency to be eligible for the reduced Ipswich resident charges.
What do the Public Resource Recovery Facilities accept?

All facilities accept dry non-hazardous waste but liquids and food waste are not accepted. Please sort your waste prior to arrival as the waste pit is only for the disposal of material that cannot be recycled.

There are bins or special areas at each site for recycling of:

- Green waste.
- Cardboard.
- Steel and scrap metal – car bodies must be cut in quarters so that they can fit in the bins provided.
- Tyres.
- Car batteries.
- Oil (domestic sources only).
- Chemicals/ paints.
- Refrigerators and other electrical appliances - doors must be removed.
- Untreated timber.
- Dirt/concrete.
- Glass bottles and jars.
- Aluminium.
- Plastic bottles/ containers.
Temporary Skips

For household clean ups, renovations or backyard makeovers, roll-on roll-off bins and skips can be hired to conveniently dispose of excess waste material.

Bins are hired on a casual basis and are an efficient, cost effective alternative to multiple trips to a waste disposal facility.

The following sizes are available for hire:

**Roll-on Roll-off bins:**

10 metre (approx. 5.3m x 2.3m x 0.9m deep)
6 metre (approx. 5.3m x 2.3m x 1.3m deep)

**Skips:**

3 metre (approx. 2.3m x 1.4m x 1.0m deep).
6 metre (approx. 3.6m x 1.4m x 1.2m deep).

A few day’s notice is appreciated for bin delivery especially for busy periods such as Easter and Christmas.

For more information about skips refer to the website. To make a booking, please contact Ipswich Waste Services by email: ipswichwasteservices@ipswich.qld.gov.au or by phone on 3813 8100.

Additional Waste Services

Ipswich Waste Services provides a range of additional waste services for domestic premises including:

- Dead animal removal.
- Pathological waste.
- Sharps services.

For further information on these services go to our website or contact Ipswich Waste Services on 3813 8100.
What a Waste!

Did you know that many Australians produce over 500 kg of domestic waste every year?! A large proportion of this waste will end up being dumped at landfill.

With predicted population growth, Ipswich’s domestic waste could reach over 186,000 tonnes per year by 2021!

Have you ever thought about exactly what gets thrown away each week in our households?

This is the average household’s weekly waste disposal, calculated by weight:

- **33%** - vegetable waste
- **24%** - miscellaneous
- **18%** - garden waste
- **14%** - paper/cardboard
- **6%** - glass
- **3%** - metals
- **2%** - plastics

Remember that glass, tin, aluminium, paper, cardboard and most rigid plastics can be recycled.

Garden and vegetable waste can be composted. Read more about composting and worm farming on pages 12 & 13.

Only 24% of our waste should be ending up at the landfill!

http://waste.ipswich.qld.gov.au
Composting is a method of turning a range of organic waste, including kitchen scraps and garden waste, into excellent quality compost. Compost acts as a natural, nutrient-rich fertiliser helping to give your garden a boost.

Using a compost bin confines the organic material and helps control conditions so that breakdown is accelerated and optimised. Micro-organisms like earthworms and other insects in the soils will enter the compost bin and will assist in breaking down the organic waste in the compost bin.

**Suitable for composting:**
- Fruit and veggie scraps
- Grass clippings, leaves, weeds and dead flowers
- Newspaper and cardboard (ripped up)
- Egg shells
- Bread
- Teabags
- Wood shavings
- Hair
- Vacuum cleaner dust

**Avoid composting:**
Meat or bones, seafood, oil or fat, dairy products, glossy magazines, too much citrus, onions or diseased plants.

**Composting tips**

1) Situate a compost bin directly on top of the soil to encourage soil organisms to enter the compost bin and assist in the decomposition process.

2) A compost bin will benefit from being in a fairly sunny location as the heat will speed up the rate of decomposition of the organic waste.

3) Make sure there is a range of organic waste such as fresh food scraps, garden waste, woody material and paper going into your compost bin. A good mix of carbon and nitrogen from this organic material will keep the compost working at its optimum rate.

4) Turn the compost heap over with a garden fork every couple of weeks to allow air to enter the compost aiding the decomposition process.

5) Ensure the compost bin is kept moist. As the sun heats the compost bin, this will produce a warm humid environment, ideal for fast decomposition rates.

6) In just 8 weeks, your compost should be ready to use in your garden.

Compost bins are available though Ipswich City Council. Phone 3810 6666 for more information. There is also more information available on composting on the website.
Worm Farming!

A worm farm uses compost worms to convert organic waste into nutrient-rich liquid and solid castings which can be used as a natural fertiliser for the garden.

Compost worms will eat the same organic waste that can be added to a compost bin (see page 12). For best results, cut or rip the food up into smaller pieces and avoid adding meat, fish, dairy products, citrus fruit and onions.

Worm farming tips:

1) You can buy a commercial worm farm from Ipswich City Council or build your own using polystyrene boxes. Place one box on top of the other. Cut holes in the bottom of the upper box to allow liquid to drain into the lower box. Add some bedding (eg. soil, leaves and shredded paper), then add compost worms and a selection of organic waste. Cover the working layer with some paper or old carpet to keep the worm farm dark.

2) It is good to start a worm farm with about 1000 compost worms. They will double their population in about 2–3 months.

3) Select a cool and shaded location for your worm farm and avoid placing the worm farm in the direct sun.

4) Keep the worm farm moist but not too wet.

5) The liquid produced by your worm farm is full of nutrients. Dilute with water and use on your pot pants and garden beds. The solid castings are also an excellent source of natural fertiliser for your garden.

Worm farms are available through Ipswich City Council. Phone 3810 6666 for more information. Compost worms are available from local hardware stores and some garden nurseries.

There is also more information available on worm farming on the website.

Environmental Benefits:

Composting and worm farming is great news for the environment!

- It is an easy and effective way to help minimise waste.
- It helps save valuable space at landfill.
- Compost and worm castings are an excellent quality nutrient-rich and natural fertiliser. Great news for the garden!
- Composting and worm farming produces free fertiliser!
Mayor Cr Paul Pisasale  
Phone: (07) 3810 6201  

Your Divisional Councillor is:  

**Division 1**  Cr David Morrison  
Phone: (07) 3818 3100  

**Division 2**  Cr Paul Tully  
Phone: (07) 3818 6900  

**Division 3**  Cr Victor Attwood  
Phone: (07) 3288 5899  

**Division 4**  Cr Trevor Nardi  
Phone: (07) 3816 2444  

**Division 5**  Cr Heather Morrow  
Phone: (07) 3281 8700  

**Division 6**  Cr Cheryl Bromage  
Phone: (07) 3810 6556  

**Division 7**  Cr Andrew Antoniolli  
Phone: (07) 3810 6208  

**Division 8**  Cr Charlie Pisasale  
Phone: (07) 3282 9600  

**Division 9**  Cr Sheila Ireland  
Phone: (07) 3810 6231  

**Division 10**  Cr David Pahlke  
Phone: (07) 5464 1088  

For more information on the content included in this booklet, please go to the Ipswich Waste Services website http://waste.ipswich.qld.gov.au

This booklet has been developed by Ipswich Waste Services. A Commercial Business Unit of Ipswich City Council.

For further information on waste management, contact Ipswich Waste Services on:  
Phone: (07) 3813 8100  Fax: (07) 3288 0047  
E-mail: ipswichwasteservices@ipswich.qld.gov.au  
or Ipswich City Council  
Phone: (07) 3810 6666  Fax: (07) 3810 6731  E-mail: council@gil.com.au

LEADING THE WAY IN THE 3R’S  
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle  
January 2006