

Learn how to improve recycling at your shopping centre, address waste-related issues, and save money.



Are you a centre manager at a shopping centre?

Refer to the guide below for support with your recycling and waste.

How to: level up recycling in your shopping centre!

Why should your shopping centre recycle and reduce waste?



It can save you money.

A recycling bin is cheaper than a general waste of the same size!



It can bring new customers.

Many people want to spend money at centres that are socially and environmentally responsible.



It helps the environment.

We all need to do our part to make the climate livable for the next generation.

Your centre produces waste every day. Follow these simple steps to make recycling and reducing waste easy for your traders and customers.



1

Support your traders to set up their bins inside.

The best way to increase recycling is to ensure that inside bins match bins in the waste area. Using coloured tape, labels & signage on internal bins helps staff sort recycling correctly before it hits the dumpster.

Install signage in the waste room.

Put up colour-coordinated signs for each type of bin. To obtain new signage, contact your [local Council](#) or request from your private waste contractor.

2



3

Do you need more recycling options?

Add recycling streams that are appropriate to your traders' needs. Speak to your local Council or private waste contractor about options and costs, and [find recycling points](#) for other hard-to-recycle materials.



Standardised recycling colours

Victoria is moving toward standardised colours and bin lids for different types of recycling and waste. Install colour-coordinated signage in your waste room to help traders understand where to separate their waste.

Mixed recycling

Cardboard & paper recycling

Food & garden organics (FOGO)

Glass

General waste

Other types of recycling (like soft plastic, 10c container deposit scheme (CDS), clothing donation, ground coffee, etc) do not have standardised colours. Make sure you correctly label bins for these types.

How to: engage with your business' private waste contractor

Is your shopping centre serviced by a private waste contractor?

Follow these tips on how you can solve waste-related issues, save money and increase your recycling.

Why is this important?

- You may be being overcharged in collection fees or overweight fees.
- You can request a new bin set-up that is cheaper and has more recycling options.
- You can get ahead of the increasing waste levy rates and begin improving your recycling now.
- You can take direct action on climate change while educating yourself on your options.
- You can help your community support recycling and decrease waste sent to landfill.



Identify the need or problem...

You might be experiencing issues with your waste. Consider:

- Are your waste bills expensive?
- Do traders throw a lot of recycling in the general waste?
- Do others dump waste at your bins?
- Is the customer service poor when you speak to your waste contractor?

1

2

If you want cheaper rates...

Consider swapping a general waste bin to a recycling bin (see number 3). These bins often have cheaper rates. Ideally, you should have more recycling bins options than general waste bins.



3

If you want to recycle more...

Get to know your options. Mixed recycling is good for cans, glass & plastic containers, cardboard is great to recycle delivery boxes & a food organics bin is best for food scraps.

Think about what recyclables your centre produces the most of - conduct a mini waste audit! Once you know this, you can call your waste contractor and request appropriate changes. Make sure your contract allows you to make changes without any fees.



If you have security issues...

4

You can request waste contractors add locks to your bins. This is helpful if you experience dumping near your bins, or if other people use your bins when they are not supposed to. Locks are a cheap way to reduce contamination and dumping by others in your bins.



5

If you are not happy with your contractor, you can find a new one...

If the service is poor or you feel your contractor is not being honest or transparent about their processes and outcomes, consider changing. Every centre should have a waste plan that is affordable and suitable for them. Begin by reviewing your waste contract for termination information and any associated fees for cancellation or changing your contract. You can easily call other waste contractors that may have more recycling streams available or better pricing. Contact them directly to compare rates.