

Reducing Household Waste – how to get started

Mark – Spearwood Resident

So one of the things I would say to my neighbours if they're not someone who recycles or likes to reduce their waste is when you get your new three bins from the council, the easiest thing to do straightaway is anything from your garden that's organic can go straight into the green lid bin. So, immediately all of that is going to be turned into compost on a commercial scale. So that's the easiest way for someone that goes 'oh it's all a bit too hard, I'm not sure what to do'. The other thing is when it comes to recycling there's lots of stuff about 'Is it done properly', 'Does it get shipped to another country? What happens?' That's not really for us to try and work out. Our job is to put it in to the right bin so that it can get to somewhere where it can be reused and if you're not sure, just ask your neighbour. You can just phone the Council, you can look it up online, every Council is a bit different about what you can recycle but general items I think most people are aware of. Cans, plastic, cardboard, paper - things like that, and if you've got an item that you're not sure of, don't be afraid to call the manufacturer. I've sent emails to a couple of companies saying 'I've got a packet of your chips, I have no idea what it's made of', and they'll usually come back pretty quick and say 'Yes it's fine, it's a certain type of plastic, you can put it in the recycling bin'. Once you can do that, then you can maybe look at doing a worm farm or a compost bin, but that's going to depend on how much space you've got as well.

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