



COMMON RECYCLING MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS



Townsville doesn't recycle and doesn't have a recycling centre.



Fact: Townsville does recycle and has its very own recycling centre located on Ingham Road! The centre also processes recyclables from Hinchinbrook, Burdekin and Bowen's yellow lid bins.

Townsville's recycling centre is often open to school, community and work groups to tour privately, as well as the public when open days are held. **Book a tour at townsville.qld.gov.au**



If my neighbour's recycling bin is contaminated the entire truckload will go straight to landfill, even if I am doing the right thing.



Fact: If a truck picks up contaminated recycling bins (contaminates are anything non-recyclable – food scraps, clothing, garden waste, nappies, sharps etc.) the entire load still goes to Townsville's recycling centre for sorting. The exception would be an open tin of paint spilling over a load of recyclables, in which case the load would go to landfill to avoid further contamination.



If you see a general waste truck collecting a recycling bin the recyclables are going to landfill.



Fact: Council's fleet of waste trucks are completely interchangeable. One day a truck might be used to collect general waste, however the next day the same truck could be used as a recycling truck. On a recycling run the truck can simply be set to compact the load less.



My recycling bin is always overfull with recyclables; Council should collect my recycling bin weekly instead of fortnightly.



Fact: Council offers residents the option to upgrade to the supersized 360L recycling bin instead of the regular 240L recycling bin. Contact us on 13 48 10 to find out more



Tip: Flatten cardboard boxes to save space in your bin and the recycling truck!



You can put clothing and fabric in your recycling bin and it will be sorted and donated.



Fact: Paper, cardboard, hard plastic bottles and containers, glass jars and bottles, steel and aluminium cans and foil are the only items that belong in your recycling bin. If you have clothing that is still in good, wearable condition you can donate it at a charity store or designated donation bin to be reused.



Tip: Other damaged or worn clothing and fabric may be taken to local charity groups – check with them first to see what donations they accept.



Styrofoam is a type of plastic so it can go in my recycling bin.



Fact: Styrofoam is plastic type 6 and cannot go in your recycling bin, only hard plastic bottles and containers numbered 1-5 inside the recycling symbol can go in your yellow lid recycling bin.



Tip: Look for the recycling symbol on the bottom of bottles and containers before placing in your yellow lid bin.



It is okay to bag or box my recyclables.



Fact: You cannot bag or box your recyclables even if it is a paper bag, compostable bag or plastic bag.

Bags and boxes hide dangerous items that could harm workers at the recycling centre. Plastic bags are a soft plastic and the recycling centre can only sort hard plastic bottles and containers. Soft plastics can wrap around and jam the machinery, causing breakdowns and delays.

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