

## Waste Information Sheet

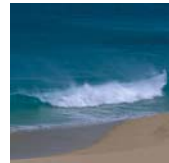
Australians generate almost 14 million tonnes of rubbish every year at a cost to taxpayers in excess of \$1.25 billion. All of this rubbish, whether it is made from steel, aluminium, paper, glass or plastic comes from raw materials from the natural environment. Precious resources such as water and energy are used to make our products that become waste, creating further greenhouse gases as by-products.

In WA the rate of rubbish disposed per person is much higher than the national average at 1.4 tonnes per person every year! In addition to domestic rubbish, further waste comes from the materials used or discarded during the building of your home and in manufacturing processes. All waste in Australia that is not recycled ends up in landfill.

Landfills are not only unpleasant and unsightly; they also emit potent greenhouse gases, contaminate groundwater and soil and attract vermin which can spread disease.

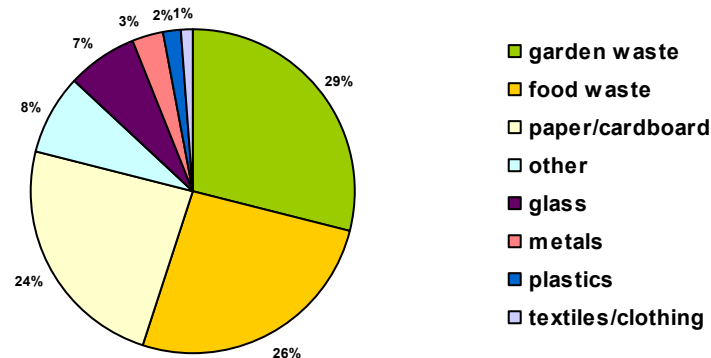
### Facts about waste

- About 280,000 tonnes of paper-derived products are used in WA each year. Much of this could be recycled. Each tonne of recycled paper saves 1 hectare of trees and uses 50% less energy and water to produce
- Australians use 6 billion plastic bags a year, if these were tied together they would stretch around the world 37 times
- It is estimated that 7 billion tonnes of solid waste enters the world's oceans annually. Over 100,000 whales, birds, seals and turtles are killed each year worldwide by plastic rubbish
- Perth throws out 100,000 tonnes of organic matter each year, all of which could be composted and used in our gardens
- A variety of hazardous wastes are generated by Australian households, 86% of households use their regular waste collection to dispose of their hazardous material



Each resident in Mandurah produces on average 0.9 tonnes of waste every year. With over 54,000 people we are adding over 76,000 tonnes of rubbish to our landfill sites every year. Unless we manage our waste more efficiently and effectively in the future, in the next ten years this will increase substantially. So the choices you make about waste in your home and garden will make a difference. To make the most impact on your household waste you need to target green waste, from food scraps and gardens. Through recycling green waste alone you could cut your contribution to landfill by more than half:

### Breakdown of WA households' rubbish



**Source: Department of Environmental Protection**

Minimising and managing waste through simple behaviour changes is probably one of the easiest and most cost-effective changes that you can make to conserve valuable resources, save money and reduce the environmental impact of your lifestyle and home.

### The 3R's – reduce, re-use, recycle

The 3R's are a simple guide to help everyone minimise waste at home, school and work. When trying to cut your waste, remember that the 3R's are in order of importance: first reduce, then re-use and finally, recycle what's left.

**Reduce** simply means to live more carefully so that you have less rubbish to get rid of later.

**Reuse** means to use the same item more than once, preferably many times, rather than throwing it out after one use. It saves money, energy and resources that would otherwise have been used to make a new product and means that the product does not go to landfill.

**Recycling** means to return a waste product to a factory where it is remade either into the same product or something different. Recycling saves landfill space, rescues the resources that went into the original item and saves energy.

For more information on minimising waste in your home visit [www.wastewise.wa.gov.au](http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au)

*Source: Department of Environmental Protection, Living Smart, Action Guide for a Sustainable Community*