

AEROSOL CANS

In Australia over 10 million aerosol steel cans are purchased every year, every one of which can be recycled after use. If aerosols are not recycled they end up in landfill. Across Australia, steel cans that are not recycled make up 2-3 % of the garbage that goes to landfill. This is a waste of precious natural resources, as more steel needs to be sourced to manufacture new steel products for the Australian market. Recycling steel cans saves natural resources in two ways: recycled steel is an important element in the steel-making process - making steel from recycled cans uses 75% less energy than using new materials. Steel cans con-

tain as much as 25-40% recycled materials, so every time you buy steel cans you close the recycling loop.

Steel aerosol cans are 100% recyclable. Here's what happens to them:

- Steel cans (including aerosols) are collected from households or recycling drop-off centres
- The cans are sorted magnetically or by hand and are compacted for ease of transport
- They are taken to the nearest steelworks
- They are then turned into everyday steel products such as cars, fridges, cans and bicycles

WHAT CAN I DO?

Over 14.5 million Australians are able to recycle their empty steel aerosols, thanks to their local council, the *Steel Can Recycling Council* and *BHP Steel*.

www.cansmart.org

To recycle your aerosol cans, remove the large plastic top and place the can in your recycling bin or

take it to the recycling drop-off centre- do not squash or puncture the aerosol can.

Look for the Recyclable Steel logo on product labels. This logo has been developed to increase consumer awareness of and participation in steel can recycling.

MORE INFORMATION

- www.bhpsteel.com - Go to the 'about blue scope steel' section and click on student information.
- www.cansmart.org- use the 'council search' facility to find out whether your council recycles aerosols