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## A TO Z OF WASTE



### BUY RECYCLED

Australians, it seems, enjoy recycling. Whether it happens at the kerbside, the transfer station or drop-off centre, the recycling of glass, plastics, metals and paper and cardboard has become firmly entrenched in our daily lives. Recycling at home is one of the easiest ways for people to actively do something good for the natural environment.

But our responsibility to recycle doesn't end at the recycling bin. When you consider how much time and effort we spend recycling, it makes sense to buy products made from recycled material. The materials you put out for recycling are not truly recycled until they are reprocessed into new products and purchased (by you). The challenge for all of us is to get better at 'buying recycled' and 'closing the loop'.

Recycling is a loop – a closed loop. You sort your recyclables, they are collected (or taken by you to the transfer station or drop-off centre), and purchased by manufacturers to make into new products. To complete the loop, you need to look for and buy products made from recycled materials. If you don't, then you are not closing the loop. Instead, materials may be sent to landfill and our recycling efforts wasted.

Buying Recycled is a win for the environment, for business and for the community. By closing the loop and buying recycled products you help to save natural resources, reduce waste going to landfill and support jobs.

#### WHAT CAN I DO?

The range of products made from recycled materials is expanding all the time and the quality constantly improving. Buying recycled supports the businesses that manufacture these products, ensuring the materials you put out for recycling are turned into products and not sent to landfill. Buying recycled is easy. Here's how to do it:

- Take a look at the products you normally buy – identify one
- Look around for one alternative product that contains recycled material
- Buy the alternative
- Notice that it works the same as the product you usually buy
- Start at the beginning with a new product

#### MORE INFORMATION

- A great idea and educational resource on buying recycled is available at: [www.mav.asn.au](http://www.mav.asn.au)
- [www.brba.com.au](http://www.brba.com.au) - Buy Recycle Business Alliance
- [www.mav.asn.au/ecobuy](http://www.mav.asn.au/ecobuy)