THE FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING GLASS



The three main ingredients in glass are sand, soda ash and limestone. In Australia, most glass also contains

40–70% recycled glass.



Glass accounts for 12% of the rubbish collected on Clean Up Australia Day each year.

In 2012, Queensland generated

99,000

tonnes of glass and recycled 79,000 tonnes.

As little as 25 grams of heat treated glass per tonne can cause recycling to be rejected and sent to landfill.

Glass is infinitely recyclable.

Australians
recycle almost
1 million tonnes
of glass every
year, which
means around
3.8 billion glass
bottles are
diverted from
landfill.

WHY RECYCLE GLASS?

When compared to other materials that generally go to landfill, glass takes the longest time to break down, requiring 1000 years to decompose.

It takes as little as

30 days

for a recycled glass bottle to leave your kitchen recycling bin and appear on a store shelf as a new glass container. The energy saved by recycling a single bottle could light a 15-watt low energy light bulb for 24 hours.



Recycling glass rather than using raw materials uses

75%

less energy.

Recycling one tonne of old glass saves energy equal to approximately

135 litres of oil. of air pollution are produced for every tonne of new glass produced. By recycling glass we reduce that pollution by 14-20%.

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WHAT HAPPENS TO GLASS?

COLLECTION

Bottles and jars are collected in recycling schemes and separated from other recyclable products at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

NEW GLASS

This crushed glass is often mixed with virgin glass material to produce new end products



They are then further sorted by size into clear, amber and green glass and sent to a manufacturer



PRODUCTION

The glass recycling process produces an end product called cullet

PROCESSING

Contaminants such as metal, plastic, china, ceramin and stone are removed and the glass is crushed

DID YOU KNOW?

The same glass can be recycled a million times over to produce bottles and jars of the same high quality.

Of the glass recycled in Australia, 85% is made back into glass containers.

Manufacturers today are making lighter glass bottles in a bid to conserve resources. In 1986 a 'stubby' weighed 260g, today it is just 186g.

You do not need to remove labels from glass before recycling.

Buy in bulk. For example, a 500g bottle of olive oil contains less glass than two 250g bottles.



NEVER RECYCLE:

Heat treated glass, including Pyrex, drink ware, ceramics, plate glass (window panes), oven proof glass, opaque glass, light globes and mirrors.

