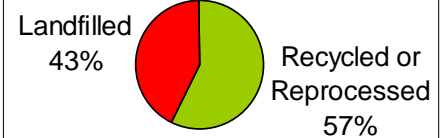


Minimising waste around your home

Bega Valley Shire residents do a great job of using their general waste, recycling and garden organics bins to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill. In 2005-06 residents diverted over 57% of their waste from landfill, and this is set to increase with the extension of the garden organics collection service to more residents throughout the Shire in 2006-07.

The NSW state government has set residents a target to divert 66% of their waste from landfill over the coming years.

This fact sheet has been developed to give you some 'handy hints' on ways you can further minimise waste around your home (in addition to using your '3 bin system' to separate waste), to help the Bega Valley Shire community to achieve their waste diversion target.



Smart Shopping

By becoming a smart shopper you can reduce the amount of waste that you bring into your home, thus reducing the amount of waste you send to landfill. Here are some practical ways you can avoid making waste.

When you're out shopping, ask yourself...

- Is the packaging recyclable?
- Can the item be maintained, repaired or restored as it gets older?
- Is the product over-packaged?
- Is there another brand with less packaging?
- Will I use all of this before the expiry date?
- Do I really need this?
- If you're only purchasing one of something... do you really need to put it in a plastic bag?

Some other ideas to keep in mind....



- Choose products in reusable containers
- Check to see if there is a less wasteful alternative
- Say "NO" to plastic bags, take your own reusable bags or boxes
- Choose products in their own 'natural' packaging e.g. the skin on banana's
- Choose products with recycled content e.g. paper towel, napkins etc.

Contact us at one of our offices

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Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Bega Valley Shire Council holds Household Hazardous Waste Collections every year at 3 locations throughout the Shire. Hazardous materials can cause damage to our environment if not disposed of properly.



Items accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Collections include:

- Pesticides
- Fungicides
- Batteries
- Oxidisers
- Weed Killers
- Paints and varnishes
- Household cleaners
- Fuel
- Oils
- Sharps (Syringes)
- Poisons
- Solvents
- Acids and alkalis
- Pool chemicals
- Medicines
- Fertilisers
- Smoke detectors

Rather than putting these items in your general waste bin, why not store them in a safe location in the shed or garage and take them to the FREE collections each year where they will be recycled or properly disposed.

Home Composting and Worm Farming

Compost heaps are a great way to reuse lawn clippings and prunings, and when mixed with vegetable scraps and other organics can make a nutrient rich potting mix and mulch that can be used around your garden.



Worm farms are also great to turn your vegetable scraps into a rich soil-like substance called 'castings' and they also produce a liquid referred to as 'worm tea'. The castings and worm tea can be used as an alternative to fertiliser for house plants, potting soils or top dressing around plants.

Council has a range of FREE 'easy guides' available on topics such as worm farming, home composting, the marvel of mulch, recycling and natural cleaning. Pick your free copy of any one of the 'Easy Guides' from



Council, or call on 6499 2222 and we can send a copy out in the mail. The 'Easy Guides' are also available on Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au.



For more information about Bega Valley Shire council's Waste and Recycling Services check out Council's website www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au or call the Waste Hotline 1300 369 842.

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