

SORTING YOUR RUBBISH CORRECTLY

Information and suggestions for tenants of rented properties

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Different kinds of waste

It is important for you to find out where you should leave different kinds of waste. This may differ from building to building and from area to area. Ask your landlord if you are uncertain about the rules that apply where you live.

How to sort your rubbish

Follow the arrows and see what rubbish should be separated out and where it should be left. You will soon realise that not much should be put into your normal bin bag.

Hazardous waste

The most important thing is to separate out hazardous waste; otherwise this will poison the soil and water. You should leave this waste at the municipal recycling centre if your closest environmental room does not have any appropriate containers, for instance for electrical and electronic products. You can also ask the shop where you bought the product whether they will take the waste. For example, pharmacies take back old medicines, and grocery stores sometimes have receptacles for small electrical and electronic products.

Pharmaceuticals

Medicines should never be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain. Wastewater treatment plants cannot remove these hazardous substances so they will enter the watercourse. Leave: at a pharmacy.

Chemicals

For example: Paints, solvents, glues, putty, atomisers, strong cleaning agents and nail polish. Leave: in the special chemicals receptacle if the environmental room where you live has one or at the municipal recycling centre.

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Light bulbs

For example: light bulbs, low energy light bulbs, LED lights and fluorescent lighting tubes. Some bulbs contain mercury, which is one of the most dangerous poisons around.

Leave: in the special bulbs receptacle, if your closest environmental room has one, at your grocery store or at the municipal recycling centre. You can also ask whether the shop where you purchased the bulb will take your old ones.

Batteries

For example: small removable batteries from torches, remote controls or computer accessories. Leave: in a battery recycling bin or similar receptacle.

Electrical and electronic products

For example: small and medium-sized apparatuses such as computers, televisions, toys, household appliances and tools. Anything with a cable or battery. These may contain CFCs, mercury, cadmium, lead and other substances that are harmful to humans and the environment.

Leave: in the special electrical and electronic products receptacle, if your closest environmental room has one, or at the municipal recycling centre. You can also ask whether the shop where you bought the product will take it.

Toys with built-in batteries:

First remove the battery and put it in the battery recycling bin. Then put the toy into the electronic waste receptacle.

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Packaging

Almost everything we buy is packaged in some way, resulting in a large amount of waste. All packaging can be recycled, and for this reason you should not put it in with the rest of your household waste but separate it out. This applies to, for example, milk cartons, plastic lids and cartons. If you cannot leave packaging where you leave other waste in your residential area, you should look for your closest recycling station for packaging. There will usually be one within walking distance of your home.

Suggestions

Ensure that no food residue is left in cans and packaging; wash them well. Remove bottle caps and lids. These can usually be left in the metals or plastics receptacles. Fold or flatten all cartons so they do not take up as much space.

Paper packaging

For example: milk and juice cartons, paper bags, sugar bags, shoe boxes, toilet rolls and corrugated cardboard boxes.

Leave: in the special paper packaging receptacle.

But not: envelopes; put these in with combustible household waste. Put newspapers, advertising leaflets and the like into the newspapers receptacle.

Newspapers

For example: daily newspapers, magazines, catalogues, advertising leaflets, brochures, drawing paper and paperback books.

Leave: in the special newspapers receptacle.

But not: envelopes and hardback books. These should be put in with combustible household waste instead. Paper bags should not be put in here either but in the paper packaging receptacle.

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Plastic packaging

For example: bottles, cans, small buckets and drums, plastic carrier bags, plastic bags, refill packets, tubes, crisp packets and Styrofoam.

Leave: in the special plastic packaging receptacle.

But not: toys, juice jugs or plastic spatulas. These should be left at the municipal recycling centre or with combustible household waste instead.

Returnable bottles

For example: returnable fizzy drink cans and PET bottles.

Leave: at your grocery store where you can return them and get some of your money back.

Glass packaging

For example: coloured and clear glass bottles and jars.

Leave: in the special coloured and clear glass receptacles.

But not: drinking glasses, chinaware, ceramics and other items that are not packaging. These should be left in the bulky refuse room or with combustible household waste instead. Nor should bulbs and fluorescent lighting tubes be put in the glass collection.

Metal packaging

For example: tins, empty atomisers, tubes, bottle caps and metal lids.

Leave: in the special metal packaging receptacle.

But not: scrap metal, heating, ventilation and sanitation components, frying pans and other products, that are not packaging; these should be left in the bulky refuse room or with combustible household waste instead.

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Food waste is sorted separately in many residential areas, although not all. Food waste is rotted down to produce biogas or composted to become soil. Careful sorting is required to achieve this.

Food waste

For example: food left on plates, apple cores, banana skins and prawn shells. Serviettes, household tissue, coffee grounds and teabags are also regarded as food waste.

Leave: in a special bag that is then left in the food waste receptacle.

But not: cigarette ends or moist snuff; these should be separated as combustible household waste.

Textiles

For example: clothing, shoes and curtains.

Leave: clothing that is complete and clean can be given to a clothing collection. You can throw torn clothing and broken shoes in with your normal combustible household waste unless it is too bulky, in which case it should be left in with the bulky refuse or at the municipal recycling centre.

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Bulky refuse

For example: broken furniture, frying pans, large boxes and other large refuse that will not fit into a normal bin bag.

Leave: in the bulky refuse room; if there is no such room for your building, you should leave your bulky refuse at the municipal recycling centre. Some housing companies organise special clearance sessions once per year, providing receptacles in which you can leave your bulky refuse.

Please do not leave bulky refuse in basement corridors or outside the dustbin; this may cause fires, attract pests and impede access to the area. Furthermore, if you leave rubbish in an unsuitable place, it is highly likely that more people will copy and do the same, which would result in an untidy and unpleasant residential environment.

The rest ... Residual waste

The only things you should put in your normal bin bag.

Combustible household waste

For example: nappies, sanitary towels, tampons, vacuum cleaner bags, washing-up brushes, envelopes, moist snuff and cigarette ends. Whatever cannot be separated out as something else ends up here, in your normal bin bag, and will be burnt.

Leave: in your ordinary bin bag which you should put in the receptacle for combustible household waste (sometimes called residual waste).

Well done!

Smart ways of reducing your waste

There is a lot you can do to reduce the amount of waste you produce while saving money.

Here are some suggestions:

- buy less
- buy second-hand
- buy things that last longer
- repair things that break
- use plastic bags several times or take your own canvas bag to the shops
- drink tap water instead of water from a bottle or tin
- plan your food shopping well so that you manage to use everything before it goes off.

Sell, swap or give away

Throwing away useful things is a major waste of resources. There are currently many opportunities to swap, sell or donate complete and clean things that you no longer want. Furthermore, this is usually the most convenient way of, for example, getting rid of furniture. There are several websites on the Internet that mediate swaps and sales. *Blocket* and *Tradera* are a couple of examples, but there are also local groups on Facebook. You can also contact a charity in your area that may come and collect your things.

Some apartment blocks and recycling centres have recycling rooms where you can leave complete and clean things and find things that you need yourself. However, remember that soft furniture, such as sofas or beds, may spread bedbugs.

Did you know that:

Glass packaging can be recycled again and again without any deterioration in quality, as raw materials, such as silica, soda and lime, are saved. Furthermore, less energy is used to recycle glass than to make new glass. Recycling glass reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 41 per cent compared with producing a new product from new raw materials.

Paper and cardboard packaging sent for recycling means that we do not have to cut down as many new trees. One tonne of recovered paper corresponds to around 14 trees. Using recycled paper instead of making new paper also saves energy and chemicals. Paper can be recycled around seven times. Eleven returnable cans save enough energy for a five-minute shower.

- A bag of food waste can be turned into enough biogas for a 2.5 kilometre car journey.
- If everyone handed in their bottle caps for recycling, we would have enough steel for 2,200 new cars each year.
- Sweden recycles 99% of its household waste.

Source: Förpacknings- and Tidningsinsamlingen (FTI) and www.sopor.nu

***Thank you for recycling and sorting correctly.
Together we can save energy and prevent the destruction of nature and the environment.***