

What happens to household problem wastes dropped off at CRCs /CRS



Paint

Paints – are mixed with other waste solvents and used as an alternative to fuel in cement kilns. The metal containers are recycled.



Gas bottles
(propane)

Gas bottles – have residual gas captured for reuse. Undamaged bottles are retested, restamped and entered into the hire industry. Damaged bottles are punctured and recycled as scrap metal.



Motor and
other oils

Oils – are processed into lubricants or used as fuel (waste to energy)



Car batteries

Car batteries - are sent to recyclers where the lead, acid and plastic are recovered and recycled.



Household
batteries

Household batteries - are separated into types i.e. alkali, NiMH and are processed here in Australia using state of the art extraction processes to recover 95% of component materials including steel, copper and aluminium. These materials are then reused to manufacture new products, with a good portion going back into battery manufacture.



Smoke
detectors

Smoke detectors (alarms) - come in two types, photoelectric and ionising. Ionising smoke detectors contain a very small amount of a radioactive material, Americium-241. Due to this radioactive component they cannot be safely recycled in Australia and should not be disposed off via kerbside bins to landfill to avoid potential contamination. Instead they can be dropped off at a Community Recycling Centre (CRC) or at a Community Recycling Station (CRS), where they will be collected for safe disposal at a licenced facility.

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Fluoro globes and tubes

Fluorescent light globes and tubes – contain mercury. Recyclers crush the tubes & globes to separate the phosphor powder from the glass. They feed the powder through receiving containers, where it is filtered to capture fugitive mercury emissions. The mercury is then separated by distillation and sold for a range of industrial uses. The phosphor and metals are also recycled into new materials.



Mobile phones

Mobile phones & accessories - phones are sorted and the parts separated. The batteries, circuits and accessories are recycled overseas while the plastic casings are recycled here in Australia. Alternative drop off locations include participating mobile phone retailers - Telstra, Optus, Vodafone and Samsung stores. Or via a free Mobile Muster satchel available from post offices. Find out more about recycling mobiles [click here](#)



Ink cartridges

Printer ink cartridges – recycled via the Cartridges4PlanetArk program through [Close the Loop](#) who have a zero waste to landfill policy. All the parts are recycled in Australia; the metals are smelted and sold on for manufacturing. The plastics are sorted by plastic type, refined and used to make different products such as pens, rulers and landscaping materials. The inkjet plastics and inkjet ink are recycled into pens while reclaimed ink is reused as printing ink. Cartridge brands accepted through the program include: Brother, Cannon, Epson, HP, Konica Minolta, Kyocera, Lexmark, Roland 30, Samsung, Sharp, Toshiba and Dell.



Eye glasses

Reading (eye) glasses are collected by Lions Club for their [Recycle for Sight](#) program. Since it started, the program has delivered over 7 million pair of refurbished quality spectacles to men, women and children in need across the world including Africa, SE Asia and the Pacific.



X-rays

X-rays - dropped off for recycling are stored and transported securely to protect confidential medical information. They are processed at the Siltech Metal Refinery in Victoria, which is one of the only licensed facilities in Australia that can treat this type of waste. X-ray film contains the precious metal silver, which is fully extracted through incineration and reused in the manufacture of other silver products including solder, jewellery and electrical parts. The plastic component of the film is separated and used as an additive to bitumen. The energy created during the incineration process is used to fuel other onsite operations.