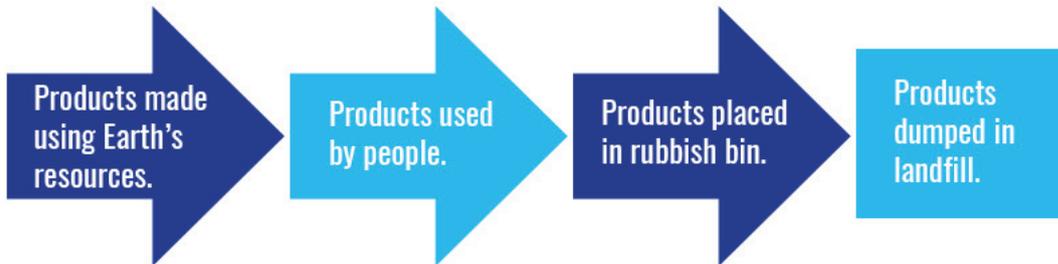


# Closing the Recycling Loop

## Have you heard about closing the recycling loop?

When we put waste into the rubbish bin, it gets taken to landfill where it is dumped in huge piles and contaminates ground, waterways and air as it breaks down over hundreds of years.



Once we have dumped it, there is nowhere else for it to go. While some organic materials such as banana skins may take only weeks to break down, some items such as glass can take millions of years. At our current rate, if everything went to landfill, the Earth would soon run out of space and we would have an uninhabitable environment.

## So, what's the loop?

By creating a recycling loop, we can reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill and also stop using as many of the Earth's natural resources. The items we have already used can be recycled to create new ones and then, when they have been used they can be placed back in the recycling bin again. This way we can stop putting as many things in the bin, and stop harming the Earth by taking its natural resources.



## How can I help close the loop?

It's easy! All you need to do is:

- Make sure you recycle things you have finished with.
- Buy recycled products (like toilet paper and copy paper).
- Buy food and drinks in recycled packaging.

Not sure what has been recycled? More and more products will tell you on the packaging whether the product or the packaging is made from recycled materials, and whether the packaging or product can be recycled when you no longer want it. Keep a look out for these products and try to choose them over the products that can't be recycled or aren't made from recycled materials.

Sources:  
[www.visy.com.au](http://www.visy.com.au)

*The information and statistics in this document are approximate and have been simplified for educational/illustrative purposes. They should not be relied upon for any other purpose.*

## How do I know if I am recycling right?

Just follow these ten tips:

### 10 TOP TIPS TO RECYCLE RIGHT

- 1. Recycle right.** Recover all paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, aluminium cans and foil and steel tins.
- 2. Do not put recyclables in plastic bags.** Use a tub or basket to carry these items to your recycling bin.
- 3. Donate your old clothes and shoes.** These items do not belong in the recycling bin and if they can't be donated they should be put in the waste bin.
- 4. Leave lids and labels on plastic bottles.** The recycling process will remove these.
- 5. Garden waste belongs in your green waste bin.** Do not put lawn clippings or branches in the recycling bin.
- 6. Conserve water by not rinsing.** Just empty any food or liquid before you put items in the recycling bin.
- 7. Take care not to put waste in your recycling bin.** Make a conscious effort to separate your recyclables and waste and place them in the correct bins.
- 8. Compost food scraps.** These can be used on your garden as fertiliser.
- 9. Have local council or private recyclers take your white goods** (fridges, washing machine, dryers etc.).
- 10. Dispose of electronic waste correctly.** Enlist the services of electronic retailers who have recycling bins for discarded appliances (mobile phones, batteries etc).

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