

10 WASTE AND RECYCLING MISCONCEPTIONS AT ANU

MISCONCEPTION

THE FACT

OUR TIP

1



Takeaway coffee cups go in the recycling bin.

Most takeaway coffee cups are **NOT recyclable** because they have a **plastic lining** on the inside, or the plastic lid has a plastic identification number of "6". This means they cannot be recycled in the ACT and **belong in landfill**.

We recommend **bringing your own reusable cup** to avoid generating waste, and if using takeaway cups check the plastic identification number is **"1", "2", "3" or "5"** which means it is **recyclable**. Be sure to check the numbers on both the lid and cup.

2



Iced drink takeaway cups are recyclable.

Many plastic takeaway drink cups are now **designed to break down under specific conditions**, but **not in standard recycling**. These cups often look like plastic or cardboard but **cannot be processed in ACT facilities** or are lined with non-recyclable plastic.

We recommend **bringing your own reusable cup** to avoid generating waste, and if using takeaway cups check the plastic identification number is **"1", "2", "3" or "5"** which means it is **recyclable**. Be sure to check the numbers on both the lid and cup.

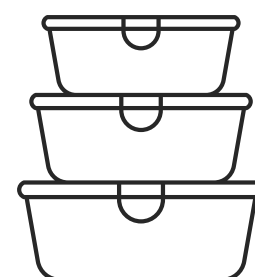
3



Biopak food containers are recyclable.

Some takeaway containers may be **lined with plastic or wax**, making it **non-recyclable and non-compostable**. Other containers (like pizza boxes with food scraps or a lot of grease) may be **too dirty for recycling** and should **go in landfill** instead.

Bring your own container and ask establishments to put your takeaway food in them.



4



A triangle symbol indicates an item as recyclable.

The triangle symbol is a **plastic identification code**, not a guarantee it belongs in the recycling bin.

Check the numbers. Hard plastics **1, 2, 3 and 5** are **recyclable at ANU**, but others need to go to landfill.



Scan to know more about ANU Green:



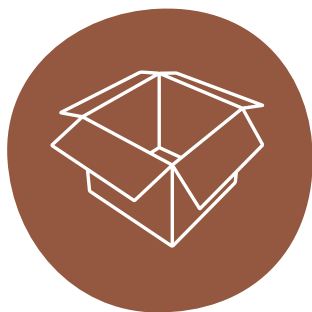
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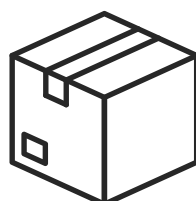
OUR TIP

5



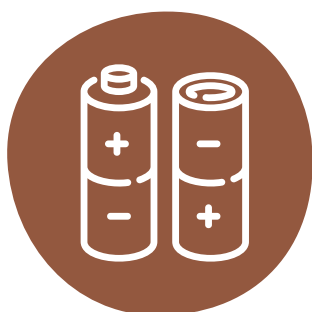
All cardboard belongs in the recycling bin.

Some cardboard containers have **plastic or wax lining**, may be covered in **sticky tape** or are contaminated with **food scraps**. This makes them **non-recyclable**.



Make sure your cardboard is **free from food solids** and has **no plastic linings or tape** before placing it in the paper and cardboard bins.

6



E-waste and batteries can go in landfill.

Batteries and electronics **contain hazardous materials** that can leak into the environment. These items **should be disposed of at dedicated areas** on campus.



Dispose of batteries in dedicated **battery disposal towers**, and use the **sustainable tech disposal program** on campus for safe disposal and resource recovery of e-waste.

7



If an item is biodegradable it can break down anywhere.

Many biodegradable products **require industrial composting facilities** to break down properly. If the items end up in landfill they can behave like regular plastic and turn into **microplastics** that **affect ecosystems** and **release greenhouse gases**.

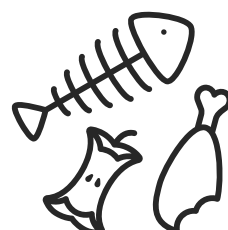
Opt for reusable containers wherever you can. If you get a biodegradable cup or container, **check the plastic identification number** to see if you can recycle in the ACT, or place them in the landfill bin to avoid contamination.

8



It is okay to guess which bin I dispose of an item in.

Even **small amounts of contamination** in bins like recycling can mean we have to **send the whole contents to landfill**.



Read the appropriate signage and learn about proper resource and waste disposal at ANU. Use our **Be Bin Smart Toolkit** to support your learning and local areas.

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It is okay to dispose of old clothes and furniture in landfill.

Most furniture and clothing is made up of a **mix of materials**, glues or chemicals, which **decompose at different rates, or not at all**. Even natural fibers need a lot of water, energy and chemicals to produce. When they go to landfill instead of being reused, that **embodied energy and water is wasted**.

Check out the [ANU Green Network Second Life Furniture Channel](#), give away quality items through the [ANU Buy Nothing Facebook Group](#), or donate clothing and textiles to a [second-hand shop or textile recycling program](#).

10



Vapes can be disposed of in landfill or recycling bins.

Vapes and e-cigarettes **contain batteries, electronics** and sometimes **hazardous substances**. They can also **cause fires** in waste trucks and facilities. In the ACT, they are classified as hazardous waste and **need proper disposal**.

Drop them off at a [Resource Management Centre](#) (Mugga Lane or Mitchell) for **safe disposal**. If you have a damaged or leaking vape handle with care and deliver as soon as possible to a disposal facility.

Please remember **ANU is a smoke-free campus**, this includes the use of all smoking products like vapes and e-cigarettes. The ANU Medical Center or your local doctor can provide advice on options to help you quit smoking, and the Staff Employee Assistance Program and Student Counseling Services provide counseling support for people managing change and stressors. Details of online QUIT programs and other resources are available on the [ANU Smoke-Free website](#).

CONTACT US

Email: ANUgreen@anu.edu.au

Instagram: [@green_ANU](#)

Teams: [ANU Green Network](#)



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