

What happens to my recycling?

In 2014-15, over 1.53 million tonnes of waste was collected from WA households. About 13% of this total waste was recycled through the use of the yellow topped recycling bin. That's around 200,000 tonnes of recycling!

In the South West Region, our recycling is collected and stockpiled at a holding site in Picton. From here, it is transported via semi-trailers to the Suez Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Bibra Lake.

At the MRF, the co-mingled recyclables are sorted into the various material types, for example plastics, paper, aluminium cans etc. This is done by both hand and by machine.



Recycled material types are then further graded, for example, PET plastics or mixed plastics; paper or cardboard. Once the materials are sorted, they are bundled together for transport.

The recycling is then sold to various buyers / manufacturers. Depending on the market, our recycled items are shipped to destinations such as India and Asia. Some items, such as PET plastic remains within Australia.

Staff at the MRF Facility report that some of the most common contaminants in the yellow top recycling bins include clothing, nappies, plastic bags and food waste. Contamination means that our recycling becomes less suitable for future reuse.



If you or members of your family are still unsure of what belongs in your recycling bin, refer to our A to Z Waste Guide at: <http://bhrc.wa.gov.au/a-z-waste-guide/>

Together we can watch our waste and help create a sustainable future for the South West.