

Less to Landfill Challenge FAQs



The bin for the challenge is really small!

It does seem small, but by reducing, reusing, recycling and composting, you might find that you have nothing at all going in it by the end of the challenge - and beyond!

What can we do with aluminium foil?

If you collect small pieces of aluminium foil until you can make an aluminium ball as large as a tennis ball - then you can put it in your council recycling bin. Collecting it to make a ball this size means it will be big enough to be picked up off the conveyor belt by sorting staff at the MuRF- Material Recovery Facility!

Can we recycle plastic wrap (soft plastic)?

If it's clean and free of food contamination, you could collect soft plastic in plastic bread bags (good reusing) and take the bags to a supermarket that has a special collection for these. (Many Coles and Woolworths stores currently have green bins at the front of stores for these collections as part of the REDcycle program).

Can the packets from chips be recycled?

The packets that chips and other 'single serve' foods come in are plastic. If you can make sure there are no chip/food crumbs left, you could add these bags to your soft plastic collection.

Can orange and mandarin peel go in the compost bin?

It's up to you. Citrus peel will take longer than other things to break down, but they can go in compost collections (provided there are no restrictions on home composting due to fruit fly in your area).

If not, what else can we do with it? At home they may be able to go in your green organics bin (check to see if your council accepts food scraps in this bin) as the commercial composting system they are sent to gets much hotter than home or school compost and breaks things down more quickly.

Can we recycle ziplock bags after they are too grotty to reuse?

No, not if they are full of food grot, because they might go mouldy and cause health and safety problems. If they are clean and have started splitting because you have reused them a lot, then they can also go in with your soft plastic collection. Try avoiding them and moving to reusable containers instead.

What plastic containers and cartons can't be recycled?

Any rigid plastic container which holds its own shape or bounces back to its original shape after you squeeze it can be recycled. All milk or juice cartons can be recycled too. They are made from Liquid Paper Board (LPB) and a one litre carton can be recycled into 5 sheets of white A4 paper - so they are very valuable for recycling!

Can we send a newsletter home so our parents can help?

This is a fabulous idea because parents are the people with the purchasing power! They will be happy that you are working to reduce the amount of uneaten food you are wasting (which they didn't even know about) and they might find they can save money by buying in bulk and putting food into reusable containers. You can also help by preparing your own food for school - that way you know it will be food you like to eat and the right amount! It will also help you remember to bring reusable containers home and, if you spend 5-10 minutes preparing your school food before you go to bed, I think your family might be pretty happy!