

RECYCLING IN SWEDEN

There are waste disposal points or waste disposal rooms in most rental apartment buildings where you sort your waste.

This means that you dispose of food waste, metal, glass, plastic and paper in different containers.

Many landlords provide their tenants with special bags for food waste. Food waste is put in a composter and turned into soil.

There are also other places where you can dispose of waste.

- **Recycling stations**

You can dispose of packaging, newspapers and batteries here.

- **Hazardous waste collection point**, that are often located at petrol stations.

This is where you can dispose of waste that is hazardous to the environment.

- **Recycling centre**

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This is where you dispose of bulky waste and larger items, as well as hazardous waste such as chemicals and electronic items.

Sorting food waste

The food waste you sort of is composted and turned into nutrient-rich soil. When you sort food waste, the amount of waste that needs to be burned is reduced.

The following are the types of food waste that can be composted:

remains of fish and shellfish, remains of meat, egg shells, vegetables and fruit, bread, tea, coffee and coffee filters, kitchen paper, flowers and plants and soil.

Sorting packaging, newspapers and batteries

There are recycling stations in all municipalities where you dispose of such things as packaging, newspapers and batteries. When you dispose of packaging at a recycling station it has to be clean and dry.

Recycling stations have different containers for:

- newspapers and magazines
- cardboard packaging
- plastic packaging
- metal packaging
- clear glass packaging
- coloured glass packaging
- batteries

Newspapers and magazines

When we recycle newspapers and magazines, we save a lot of energy when new newspapers and magazines are made as new paper can be made from the old newspapers and magazines.

Cardboard packaging

Cardboard packaging such as empty cartons can be recycled and used to make new packaging.

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Plastic packaging

Both soft and hard plastic can be recycled. You can dispose of items such as plastic packaging and polystyrene foam in the container for plastic. Plastic items that are not packaging, for example dish brushes and toys, are considered normal waste and are not disposed of here.

Metal packaging

Metal can be recycled several times and saves a lot of energy. You can dispose of steel, sheet metal and aluminium in the container for metal.

You cannot dispose of metal packaging containing paint or glue in the container for metal – this is hazardous waste and must be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection point. Aerosol cans are also considered hazardous waste.

Glass packaging

Glass can also be recycled several times. We save both energy and raw materials when we recycle glass. About 40 per cent of the recycled glass is used to make new glass items such as bottles. You have to separate coloured and clear glass when you are sorting your waste.

Residual waste

The waste that cannot be recycled is disposed of in the normal container in the waste disposal room. This is usually burned in large incineration facilities. The heat generated by burning residual waste is normally made use of. This can be used to heat buildings, for example. This is called district heating.

Electrical products

Electrical waste is the name given to all the electrical items we dispose of. All electrical waste has to be disposed of at a recycling centre. This includes light bulbs, fluorescent tubes and everything with an electrical cord or batteries. The batteries have to be removed and sorted separately.

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Bulky waste

Bulky waste includes our old furniture and broken bicycles. If you live in a rental apartment building, you can get help to deal with the bulky waste from the property owner. Otherwise, you have to dispose of this at a recycling centre.

Hazardous waste

Hazardous waste includes items that may be toxic, explosive, flammable or corrosive. Hazardous waste can be harmful in small amounts.

It is therefore very important to make sure you don't dispose of hazardous waste along with normal waste.

Hazardous waste has to be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection point, a recycling station or special vehicles that collect hazardous waste.

Examples of hazardous waste:

car batteries, fuel and oil, paint and glue, chlorine, fluorescent tubes, light bulbs and low-energy light bulbs, solvents, white spirit, paint thinner, turpentine, paraffin and acetone, lighter fluid, rechargeable batteries and some degreasers and cleaning products.

What can we pour down the drain?

The only thing you are allowed to flush down the toilet is toilet paper and things that come out of the body. Toilet paper is a special type of paper that breaks up in water. Other types of paper such as kitchen paper, wet wipes and paper tissues can block the drains. They can also create problems at the sewage works.

To avoid pouring toxins down the drain, you can buy environmentally friendly products. Washing powder and washing-up liquid marked with the Svanen or Bra miljöver symbols are all less harmful. Medicines or medical products you no longer need must be handed in to a pharmacy. Pharmacies also have special bags for disposing of medicines.

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