

Recycling Soft Plastic

the Facts!



What is a soft plastic?

Soft plastic is soft and flexible enough to be scrunched into a ball.

Common soft plastics are

- cling wrap*
- bread bags
- frozen food bags
- chip packets
- rice and pasta bags
- fresh vegetable bags (such as potatoes and carrots)

Most soft plastic is clear and see-through, but there is a lot of soft plastic that is opaque and coloured.

Soft plastic is one of the most common forms of plastic we encounter in our daily lives and its use is not exclusive to items on the supermarket shelf.

Other forms of soft plastic are

- Australia post sachets
- Cask wine bladders (clear plastic only)
- Bubblewrap
- Cellophane (wrapping used for flowers)
- Newspaper wrap
- Potting mix bags*
- Pet food bags*

**Conditions apply – check REDcycle for more details*

Can soft plastic be recycled?

Yes BUT NOT in your yellow bin. Soft plastic cannot be recycled at Shoalhaven's recycling facility as it interferes with the machinery, getting caught up in the mechanics and damaging the equipment.

Soft plastic can ONLY be recycled by returning it to Coles or Woolworths supermarkets and dropping off into the specially marked REDcycle bins.

The REDcycle Program collects soft plastics from these supermarket bins throughout Australia. REDcycle teams with other manufacturers who produce a range of products from recycled soft plastic eg: outdoor furniture.

[Click here for a comprehensive list of what is a soft plastic](#)

Are there alternatives to soft plastic?

Where possible soft plastic should be avoided. Unfortunately soft plastic, especially cling wrap is increasingly being used to wrap fresh produce. Use your consumer power and avoid buying items with unnecessary packaging.

Alternatives to common soft plastic include

- Instead of cling wrap use beeswax wraps or reusable food storage containers
- Use paper or cloth to wrap gifts instead of cellophane
- Avoid purchasing food and drink products that come in soft plastic sachets (such as juice and yogurt). These products can be purchased in recyclable packaging such as Tetra Paks and hard plastic.

The perils of soft plastic

Due to its light-weight nature, soft plastic can easily fly away and become litter in our environment.

Soft plastic is a major threat to marine life as it often resembles the food marine animals would typically eat, such as a turtle eating a jellyfish.

[Click here more information on marine environment impact](#)