

Recycling Metal



All metal is recyclable indefinitely. Metal has a very high value and is relatively “easy” to recycle, saving energy and raw materials each time it is re-processed.

How is metal from the yellow kerbside bin recycled?

- Not all metals can go in the yellow kerbside recycling bin.
- Only small food and beverage containers (steel, tin and aluminium) can be recycled via the yellow bin.
- Metal cans roll along a conveyor belt and are sorted by a powerful magnet
- Large and heavy metal objects, metal wire, strapping and even the humble metal coathanger, are not suitable for the yellow bin recycling process as they get caught up in and/or damage machinery.

What metal goes in the yellow kerbside bin?

Small metal containers typically bought from a supermarket

- Aluminium cans
- Tin or steel food cans. Please crush if possible before placing in the yellow bin. This prevents other non-metal objects getting caught inside the cans and getting mixed into the metal recycling process
- Aerosol cans – remove plastic lids

Metal Lids

- Metal lids off jars. Remove and place separately into yellow bin
- Metal bottle tops. These are too small to be collected at the recycling facility.
 - Dispose of into the red bin or
 - You can place these inside a larger metal container, then crush the can to hold the lids in. This will ensure they are captured by the magnet at the recycling facility.

Aluminium Foil: Collected to the size of a tennis ball before placing in the yellow bin.

Please note that foil medicine blister packs contain plastic and must go in the red bin.

What do I do with other metals?

Anything that is not on the above list cannot go into the yellow kerbside recycling bin but can be taken to Shoalhaven Recycling and Waste Depots for free.

Common metal household items to take to the depot include

- metal garden or garage tools and other hardware
- metal screws, nails and other small metal objects
- metal fencing, posts and balustrades,
- metal building fixtures
- metal sporting equipment
- metal furniture
- lawn mowers
- white goods (refrigerant removal fee applies for some whitegoods)
- power tools and other metal electronic items – these are classified as electronic waste and also go to the Depots for free