

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN FINLAND



The handling and sorting of municipal waste is regulated by Finnish law to protect the environment and public health. According to the Refuse Act, the production of waste should be prevented. One should consider at the place of purchase already how much and what kind of waste a product and its packaging are likely to cause and choose the least polluting option.

Littering, leaving garbage on roadsides **and burning of garbage on an open fire or in a barrel is prohibited.** Wastes are to be placed into designated collection bins.

Hazardous waste and toxic substances must be separated from other garbage. They must then be delivered to a drop-off collection point for household hazardous waste.

Biodegradable waste must be separated from other garbage and placed into a designated collection bin. Biodegradable waste is then transferred for composting and the resulting humus soil is then used for gardening or other purposes.

RECYCLING OF BEVERAGE PACKAGES

Many soft drinks and alcoholic beverages produced in Finland are packed in either refillable glass bottles (0.33, 0.5 or 1.0 litres), or refillable PET plastic bottles (0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 litres). **These returnable bottles and cans can be returned into shops or Alko.** A deposit payment of 10-40 cents (depending on the size of the bottle) is paid when the bottle is returned. Returned bottles are washed and reused several times. Cans are reused as a source of raw material.



Mixed Municipal Waste

Please, put into the dry waste collection bin:

- + All waste that has no specific collection bin
- + If the collection site has designated bins for reusable waste (such as paper, cardboard, metal and glass) this waste should be placed primarily in their own collection bins.

Please, do not put into the dry waste collection bin:

- Hazardous waste (waste harmful to health and the environment (such as batteries, fuel cells, unused medicines)
- Returnable bottles (refillable glass bottles or refillable PET plastic bottles)

Dry waste

Please, put into the dry waste collection bin:

- + All waste that has no specific collection bin

Please, do not put into the dry waste collection bin:

- Biodegradable waste
- Hazardous waste
- Returnable bottles



Biodegradable waste must be separated from dry waste.

Biodegradable waste

Please, put into the bio waste collection bin:

- + fruit and vegetable peels
- + fish and meat scraps
- + coffee filters and tea bags
- + soft and moist tissue papers
- + cooking oil and fats
- + eggshells and egg cartons (shredded)
- + pet droppings
- + gardening waste



Please, do not put into the bio waste collection bin:

- plastic, glass, rubber or leather
- toxins, paints, solvents etc.
- cigarette ends or chewing gum
- coloured commercial leaflets
- ash or lime

Please pack bio waste in a newspaper, paper bag or in a bio-decomposable bag. Do not pack bio waste in a plastic bag.

Paper

Please, put into the paper collection bin:

- + newspapers and magazines
- + commercial leaflets and envelopes
- + telephone directories and books
- + recycled paper



Please, do not put into the paper collection bin:

- disposable dishes, food packages or cardboard
- wrapping paper

Glass

Please, put into the glass collection bin:

- + clear and coloured glass (bottles and jars)

Please, do not put into the glass collection bin:

- porcelain or ceramics
- plastic or aluminium
- light bulbs
- windows, mirrors and windshield glass
- crystal



Cardboard

Please, put into the cardboard collection bin:

- + paper or board-based packages
- + biscuit and cereal packages
- + paper bags (for example sugar and flour packages)
- + egg and fruit cartons
- + milk, juice and yoghurt cartons
- + aluminium-coated juice cartons
- + brown paper bags and envelopes
- + clean disposable dishes

Please, do not put into the cardboard collection bin:

- wet or dirty cardboard
- dirty packages
- styrofoam and plastic



Metal

Please, put into the metal collection bin:

- + tins/cans
- + aluminium foil and trays
- + metal lids and caps



Please, do not put into the metal collection bin:

- aerosol cans
- batteries or other hazardous waste

Combustible waste

Combustible wastes are:

- + paper, cardboard
- + wood

Not combustible wastes are:

- plastic
- metal
- glass
- ceramics
- hazardous waste
- rubber, leather, textile

Energy waste

Please, put into the energy waste collection bin:

- + plastic bottles and dishes
- + paper and cardboard
- + plastic trays and packages
- + plastic bags
- + plastic lids and caps
- + liquid board packaging
- + styrox
- + small wooden objects

Please, do not put into energy waste bin:

- PVC plastic
- plastic pipes, tubes, raincoats, inflatable toys, cassettes, cd's, plastic cards or cases
- rubber, leather, textile, nappies
- aluminium paper
- hazardous waste, pressurized packages

Hazardous waste

Please, put into the hazardous waste collection bin:

- + medicines that have expired
- + batteries and rechargeable batteries
- + thermometers containing mercury
- + waste oil, cooling liquid and brake liquid
- + paint, glue, varnish, wood preservatives
- + solvent and thinner
- + pesticides
- + fluorescent light tubes and lamps
- + weathered wood
- + tin
- + empty aerosol and spray bottles