



## Clothing, furniture and household goods



## Zero Waste SA



The goal of Zero Waste is to eliminate waste or its disposal in landfill by encouraging South Australians to:

- reduce their consumption of resources
- reuse and recycle materials.

Australians, like many people in the world, are great consumers.

If we are serious about containing our waste and landfill we need to think more carefully about the goods we buy and then throw away.

### Facts about clothing and other household goods

- Planet Art estimates that on average each Australian household throws out 17.7 kilos of waste every week.
- Most mainstream charities have clothing recycle bins. The Salvation Army, for example, has been recycling household goods and clothing for over 100 years.
- Charities also have shops that take a large range of used household items and resell them.

### What you can do

By following the 3Rs—**reduce, reuse, recycle**—you will help to minimise waste and save precious resources.

### Reduce

You can be a careful consumer and help the environment by:

- buying fewer goods
- making sure that items you buy are durable
- avoiding disposable products
- choosing products that are recycled or recyclable
- choosing products with minimal packaging
- sharing items with friends or neighbours, such as lawn mowers, trailers
- making your own gifts
- hiring or borrowing items which are not used often, such as extra glasses for parties.

### Reuse (and repair)

As well as recycling products, furniture, clothing and other goods can be repaired and rejuvenated. You can:

- swap clothes with friends and relatives
- take a course in home maintenance
- learn sewing to repair your own clothes.

### Recycle

In South Australia you can:

- put out materials for collection in kerbside recycling schemes run by local councils
- take recyclable materials to collection depots, which are located across the state.

Use Zero Waste's Recycling Information Directory [www.recycling.sa.gov.au](http://www.recycling.sa.gov.au) to find information about recycling services in your area.



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## Clothing bins

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Charity clothing bins can be found in many places including:

- shopping centres
- garages
- church grounds.

These bins provide clothes for numerous charity shops that sell second hand clothes at low prices.

It is important that you don't dump materials, refuse or rubbish other than clothing at or around charitable collection bins. Charitable recyclers have to remove it and dispose of it properly to landfill, costing them money and inconvenience.

Some recyclers have been forced to remove their bins because of people dumping unsuitable materials near them.

You can sell clothes to commercial second hand clothing shops or shops that specialise in designer recycling. Buying from these shops will also help the recycling process.

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## Household goods and furniture

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These can be disposed of through:

- garage sales (join with the neighbours for a monster one)
- trash and treasure sales
- second hand furniture shops
- charities.

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## Books can also go to charities or second hand book shops.

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You can advertise your goods and furniture privately and make money on them that way.

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## Further information

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Details for many recycling services, second hand shops and antique shops can be found in the Yellow Pages **[www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au)**

**Most major charities have recycling bins across the state and some also have shops for second hand goods, such as:**

- Salvation Army
- Goodwill
- St Vincent de Paul.

More information about strategies and tips for managing waste in South Australia is contained in the fact sheets in this series called Managing solid waste—community strategies and Waste tips—how you can help to minimise waste.

You can visit Zero Waste's website at **[www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)**

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## Sources

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Planet Ark recycling report 2002  
**[www.planetark.org/recycling/index.cfm](http://www.planetark.org/recycling/index.cfm)**

Total Environment Centre. Toxic product fact sheet. 2003.