

# SOLO WASTE RECYCLING VIDEO

## Draft (Newspaper In Cardboard Out)

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**Narrator:** When we throw our rubbish into the bin, we close the lid on responsibility.

It's all too easy. What do we care what happens to our garbage after the truck takes it away. It's the Council's problem.....not mine.  
What a cop out!!!

In this decade of environmental enlightenment, a rapidly growing number of people and legislators are asking the question...."How much longer can our world sustain the abuse inflicted on it over the last one hundred years?

How much longer can the earth simply absorb our waste without complaint?

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How much longer can our rivers and streams survive the onslaught of chemicals and toxic waste which oozes from landfill dumps and clogs the subterranean water table?

There is now sufficient evidence available to provide the answer - "Our planet simply can't cope. Despite the genuine attempts in many parts of the world to restore a sustainable environment, it's not happening fast enough.

So it's no longer valid to close your eyes the moment you close the lid on your wheelie bin.

You are responsible.....and there is something you can do to help.

It's so incredibly simple. It means changing our collective habits with regard to rubbish disposal. There's no extra work involved.....no-one will lose.....but our world will most certainly win.

Rubbish is a cycle - it begins at the manufacture point of all of our consumer goods, from products as diverse as a television set to a hamburger.

The cycle continues at the shopping centre....where there's more handling and more packaging. By the time we get home, there's a mountain of rubbish which has to be discarded.

Asking whether all this is necessary is step one to accepting your share of the responsibility for the condition of the world we will leave for our children.

Asking whether the packaging can be recycled - whether it will break down in the soil - these are habits which can, if adopted by many people, force change for the good.

At home...the cycle moves into a vital stage. When it comes to throwing out our unwanted household wastes, we are are very much creatures of habit.

So we must change our production, consumption and disposal habits to protect the future of our world - our children's world.

This Council took a bold initiative when it decided to introduce the All-In-One or the "split" wheelie bin in order to conserve its resources and reduce landfill space.

While the Wheelie bin itself is not new - there are major differences in this bin which are essential to the long term conservation plan.

In one year, the average family will throw away one and a half tonnes of rubbish - in its uncompressed state, it would fill every room in a three-bedroom house.

Research shows that a great deal of this waste can be recycled - if not at home, then certainly at a commercial recycling centre.

A permanent divider has been fitted inside your Wheelie bin. The back section is for recyclable materials and the front section for ordinary household rubbish.

(Slow read) All forms of glass, aluminium and steel cans, plastic containers, milk and fruit juice cartons, tetra paks and even newspapers and magazines are recyclable.

Look for the numbers of 1 and 2 inside the recycle triangle marked on your plastic containers. This indicates that it is suitable for the All-In One Wheelie.

All these items are to be placed in the back of your Wheelie bin.

(Slow read) There are many everyday items that are not recyclable in the All-In-One Wheelie. These include plastic bags, cardboard, clothing, aerosol cans, chemicals and kitchen waste.

These items go in the front compartment of your Wheelie bin.

So you can see how important it is for recycling to work, that you don't mix ordinary garbage with things which can be recycled.

For example, never wrap recyclables in plastic bags.

Rinse all cans, tins and containers before throwing them in the bin.

Remove all lids before recycling.

The Council's other partners in the recycling effort are the waste disposal experts, Solo Waste.

Their familiar trucks are also divided into two compartments. The top half is for recyclable materials and the bottom half is for ordinary garbage.

It is operated by one person who does not leave the vehicle. So remember to leave the bin correctly positioned on the kerbside - with the wheels facing away from the road.

Robot like, the wheelie bin is lifted from the footpath, a powerful jet of water flips open the lid, and the bin is emptied into the truck. The recyclables go one way and the ordinary garbage goes the other.

At the landfill rubbish dump, only the bottom section of the truck empties its load.

The next stop is the Materials Recovery Facility.

Each load of approximately one and a half tonne is emptied onto a conveyor belt which feeds the Recovery Facility.

This is where the problems begin if ordinary garbage has been thrown in with the recyclables. One inconsiderate act at the home end can damage the specialised machinery, slowing the recycling process and spoiling other householder's good work.

The sorting process begins with powerful magnetic tracks extracting steel cans.

After that, it's a keen eye and a quick hand to do the sorting into separate crates for clear glass, coloured glass, newsprint, clear and coloured containers, PET containers, aluminium cans, steel cans and liquid cartons.

The recyclables of about 11 to 22 cubic metres per crate are then compressed into bales, each containing up to three hundred and eighty kilograms of raw material.

Specialised plants within Australia and overseas process the recycled materials, providing a new resource for manufactured goods of all kinds.

Yesterday's milk carton becomes tomorrow's writing pad and soft drink cans become new washing machines.

Glass must go through special processes to remove contaminants, but after that, the crushed bottles of yesterday are ready for new lives as bottles and jars.

Old glass ends up at the ACI Glass Processing Plant.

Milk and fruit juice cartons are processed by Associated Pulp and Paper Mills. A hydro-pulper blends the mixture, cleans the fibre and feeds the paper making machine. The new paper rolls created by this process are cut to size for the office market.

PET plastic containers are sent to Wodonga to remove the contaminants. They are then granulated, washed, rinsed, dried and ground into pellets ready for manufacture. These plastics are used mainly for bottles for detergent, disinfectant and, using multi-layer technology, soft drinks.

Newsprint, from old newspapers and magazines is milled, de-inked and recycled back into newsprint. Making paper from waste instead of virgin pulp, saves about 17 trees per tonne.

Steel and aluminium cans are recycled by BHP, Comalco and Sims metals. They are incorporated into the manufacture of new steel and aluminium cans and even car bodies, washing machines and refrigerators.

This collective effort -- the recycling companies, the Council, Solo Waste - is the backbone of the mounting international effort to make our world a better place.

....but the people who really make it work are there.....sitting right next to you. Your family, neighbours and friends - your classmates and your business associates.....together you can change the world.

So let's start sharing the responsibility for the survival of our planet. As a first step --- recycle your rubbish disposal habits - they're just a load of old garbage.

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