

Soft Plastics: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Soft plastics are things like bread bags, frozen food bags and cereal box liners – basically any plastic that can be scrunched into a ball. Did you know that the majority of councils in Australia can't accept soft plastic for recycling via their kerbside collection because it jams the automated sorting machines? In the spirit of Laudato Si, read on below to learn how you can keep this material out of our landfill as well as our beaches, rivers and parks!

1. REDUCE

If you can, it's always great to avoid buying products wrapped in soft plastic in the first place. Consider;

- Taking a reusable cloth bag to the bakery to avoid a plastic bread bag
- Buying the unwrapped produce at the supermarket
- Choosing glass bottles or buying containers made from recycled plastic
- The craft group at Albany Creek Parish make reusable mesh produce bags, which you can take to the supermarket to gather items like mushrooms and chillies



2. REUSE

We're all getting into the habit now of reusing plastic bags. Every time we remember to take our reusable bag to the supermarket, we're reducing the amount of plastic being created – and hence the amount of plastic waste in landfill.

Resealable sandwich bags are a great way to minimise use of one-time cling-wrap. You



can use them to freeze portions of chicken and meat, and then after defrosting, you can wash and re-use the bags. You can even buy compostable sandwich bags!

3. RECYCLE

Some times there's no avoiding soft plastics- so if you can't reduce or reuse it, separate it from your rubbish and recycle it!

Australians can recycle soft plastics via REDcycle, which has collection points at many Woolies and Coles stores. Parishioners Alana and Ben Mosely like to take their soft plastics to the recycling point at the Nundah Woolworths – this photo shows where the collection container is, right at the front doors. Find out your closest drop-off point at <https://www.redcycle.net.au/where-to-redcycle/>

What happens to the plastics? Australian manufacturers convert REDcycle material into indoor and outdoor furniture, bollards, and signage. It can also be turned into a component for road



Soft plastic recycling

The REDcycle Program makes it easy for consumers to keep plastic bags and packaging out of landfill.

Do the scrunch test



YES PLEASE

Some of the most commonly recycled items include:



NO THANKS

We cannot accept the following:

-  Plastic bottles
-  Plastic containers
-  Any rigid plastic such as meat trays, biscuit trays or strawberry punnets
-  Glass
-  Rubber
-  Paper and cardboard
-  Tin cans
-  Food waste

*Contact your local council to check if it can go into your kerbside collection.

Please make sure your plastic is dry and as empty as possible.
For a comprehensive list of what can be REDcycled and more