

Bin Tagging Frequently Asked Questions



What is bin tagging?

- Bin tagging is a state government-funded education program delivered by Local Government on a regular basis. The program has been running since 2015. This 2020 round of bin tagging is part of the biggest exercise ever undertaken by participating councils across WA.
- Bin tagging is an education tool to provide residents with direct individualised feedback on the contents of their bin – to help them reduce their waste and recycle right. Information on what should go in which bin is also available at wmrc.wa.gov.au and recycleright.wa.gov.au
- Bin taggers lift the lid of your bin while it is on the kerb waiting to be collected and assess the immediately visible contents to see whether there is any contamination
- Bins are given 'happy' or 'sad' face tags based on the presence of visible contamination in the bins. The tags include what is and isn't accepted in the bin, with room for written feedback.
- Bin tagging is just a quick look, taggers visit around 100-150 bins per hour, and only look at what is immediately visible. They do not rummage, tip out the bin or look any further than what is on the top of the bin contents.

Which bins are being tagged?

- Bins in selected areas within Subiaco, Cottesloe, Mosman Park and Claremont are being tagged in this round: a total of around 1,000 of the 23,000 properties. Similar programs are running in many other councils.

When will the program run?

- The program will run weekdays from 6am – 8:30am approximately for 6 weeks from late February

What happens if there is contamination in my bin?

- When the wrong items are in the bins bin taggers leave a sad face tag with written comments on what should be changed.
- Only when there is repeated severe contamination in a bin are bins taped shut and residents are asked to remove the contamination before the bin can be emptied.

What information is on the tags? (see images at the end of this document)

- The bin tags have been tested and improved through use and standardised in order to promote a consistent waste education message across councils.
- There are different tags for each bin type, and they detail what is and isn't accepted in the bin, with room for written feedback

Why is the program being undertaken?

- There is much confusion about what goes in which bin, bin tagging clarifies any misconceptions or confusion residents may have about the bin system, while also offering positive reinforcement to households sorting their waste correctly.
- Experience shows that contamination decreases on repeat visits and only a handful of properties have bins that are severely contaminated.
- Reducing contamination in bins reduces waste service costs and rates

Why is recycling contamination an issue?

- It can mean that the recyclables may go to landfill as they are no longer of good quality
- Recycling collected from the kerbside bin is sorted by a combination of people and machinery which cannot remove all contaminants
- Recycling processors have increasingly stringent standards for acceptance of material.
- Decreasing contamination in the bin decreases the cost to residents of their waste services

Is bin tagging an invasion of privacy?

- No, once your bin is on the verge, it is Local Government property. The Council has authorized the taggers to look in the bin. If you have concerns about specific things, put them in bags/envelopes or rip them up.
- Bin taggers tag 100-150 bins per hour to gain a general overview of how the household is sorting their waste.
- If you are still concerned, contact your council and your property can be taken off the list

How do I know who the taggers are?

- WMRC bin tagging staff members will be wearing a high-visibility vest and wearing a WMRC hat

Will there be any fines?

- No, this program is purely for educational purposes.

Will anyone be named and shamed?

- No. The taggers will not have access to the names of the residents and data will only be reported at a Council level.

What if I don't have a Garden Organics bin?

- If the household hasn't been allocated a GO bin, they will receive a smiley tag when there are garden organics in their general waste bin

Why can't I put food organics in my garden organics bin?

- Garden organics alone are processed differently from mixed food and garden organics.

Why can't I bag my recyclables?

- Recyclables that are put in plastic bags in the recycling bin don't get recycled – the recycling sorting facilities don't open or empty the bags – instead they get sent to landfill

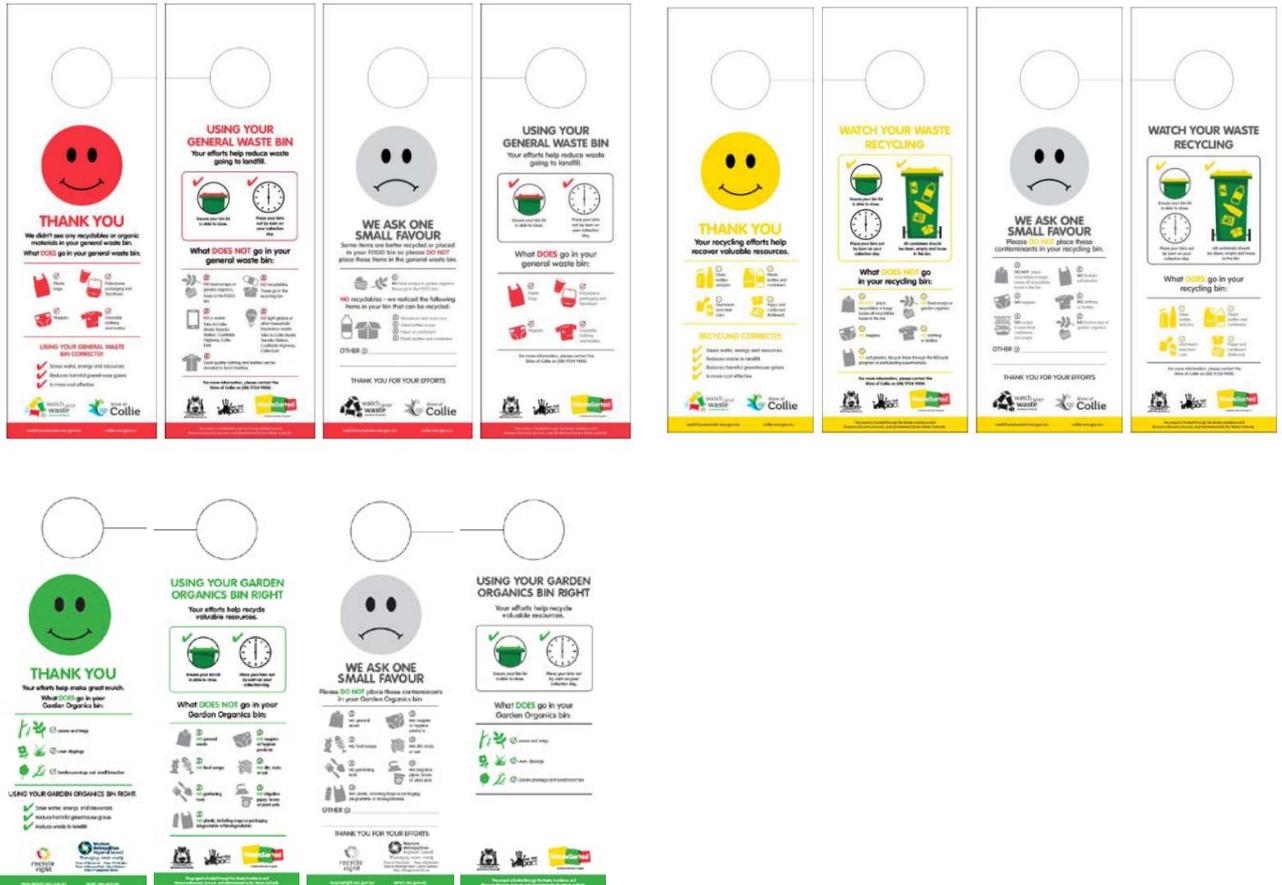
Soft plastics – what are they and why can't they be put in the recycling bin?

- Soft plastics are scrunchable plastics often used for packaging foods.
- As of 2018, soft plastics are no longer accepted in kerbside recycling bins To recycle soft plastics, they can be taken to REDcycle bins out the front of Coles or Woolworths stores

What if my question has not been answered here?

- Ring the WMRC Recycling Hotline 9384 6711 or email community@wmrc.wa.gov.au

Tag images:



WMRC Member Councils

Town of Claremont | Town of Cottesloe | Town of Mosman Park | City of Subiaco | Shire of Peppermint Grove