



Bin inspection program FAQ

1. What is the bin inspection program?

Council's recycling collection contractor, Solo, will be running the recycling bin inspection program starting April 2021. By inspecting the recycling bins and providing direct feedback to residents, we are aiming to reduce the recycling contamination rate.

2. What is recycling contamination?

Contamination is caused by the wrong items being placed in recycling bins. For example, plastic bags in the recycling bin are considered contamination.

Contamination causes problems during the sorting of recyclables and affects the ability of an item to be processed into a new product.

For a list of items that do not belong in your recycling, please visit www.darebin.vic.gov.au/recycling

3. Why is it important to reduce contamination?

Contamination is a major challenge for Council because it impacts processing time and cost, poses a hazard to facility workers and decreases the quality of recycled material.

Contamination increases the costs for processors as they have to spend more time and money sorting and removing the wrong items. Manually removing items like plastic bags, which can hide sharp objects, can be hazardous for workers at the Material Recovery Facility.

When a recycling bin is contaminated with incorrect items, the recycling process becomes less efficient and can result in valuable resources being sent to landfill rather than being reused or recycled.

It is important to reduce recycling contamination to improve environmental outcome as well as to save costs to Council so that council rates can be spent on services for our community.

4. How does the bin inspection program work?

Households across Darebin will be selected randomly for bin inspections.

Inspectors will assess the contents of the recycling bin at the kerbside on bin collection day.

Inspector will place a tag on the recycling bin based on their assessment, providing feedback about its contents and how the user can improve their recycling if needed.

The purpose of the inspection is to gain a general overview of how the household is sorting their waste and recycling. Recycling bins are only inspected to the point of determining the kind of items in the bin. There is no fine associated with this program.



The inspector will record information about the type of items they see in the bin and may take photos to support reporting.

All recorded information will be stored in line with the Information Privacy Principles outlined within the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). Information will be held in a restricted database and will be accessed and reviewed for the purpose of service improvement only.

5. How do I know if my bin was inspected?

All households that have their bins inspected will receive a tag on their bin.

Recycling bins that have no contamination will receive a **well done** bin tag.

Recycling bins with contamination will receive a **warning** bin tag or a **rejection** sticker, indicating that incorrect items were found in the bin which shouldn't be there. These households will also receive a notice in their letterbox with information on how to recycle correctly.

Where there is heavy contamination or where hazardous items or building and renovation materials are sighted, the recycling bin will be stickered shut and the bin will not be collected. There will be an opportunity for the user to remove the contaminated items and call the Council for collection.

In extreme incidents of ongoing contamination without improvement we may remove the recycling bin until further education is provided.

6. What to do if your bin is rejected

If your recycling bin has been rejected (not picked up) following an inspection you will need to remove the incorrect items indicated on the sticker before calling Council to arrange a follow up collection.

Visit www.darebin.vic.gov.au/recycling to see which items are allowed in each bin.