

2026

MANAGING WASTE

ON FARM AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY

A Farm Guide

Localised for Hurunui District



Thanks to the following:

- Trish Rankin, Thriving Southland and Environment Southland
- The WasteMINZ Farm Waste Working Group
- With localised input from council waste minimisation officers and Environment Canterbury staff.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this guide was correct at the time of publication – 20 April 2026.

We have checked the information at the time of going to print, but recommend checking the relevant website, Facebook page or calling ahead before you arrange to drop off any materials. You should also check any charges that may be associated with the recycling and drop-offs.



WHY REDUCE YOUR WASTE ON FARM?

Plastic products are essential to our high-performing farming sector—helping protect crops, store chemicals safely, and wrap bales efficiently. But once the job is done, these same items—like agrichemical containers, bale wrap, and other farm plastics—can quickly add up and cause a headache on farm.

The need to improve waste management is now widely recognised, not just by farmers, but also by local communities and overseas markets.

Leaving a positive legacy

Farm waste today is very different from what our grandparents had to deal with. Much of it contaminates soil if buried or spilled, and burning releases harmful toxins into the air.

Plastics are one of the biggest challenges, especially bale wrap, which piles up quickly. Treated timber is another common issue, burning it can leave long-lasting contamination in the soil.

“Out of sight, out of mind” isn’t an option anymore. Poor waste practices don’t make the problem disappear; they just leave it for the next generation to deal with.

Better waste management

A lot of what we call “waste” doesn’t actually need to be wasted at all. Things like bale wrap, chemical containers, drums, tyres, or old bits of metal can often be recycled or put to another use, rather than ending up in a burn pile or buried in a farm dump.

Of course, sometimes disposal really is the only option. In those cases, sending it to an engineered, fully lined, and well-managed landfill is a much safer choice than on-farm burning or dumping.

This guide pulls together the key info on how to deal with different types of farm waste, all in one place, so it’s easy to find and use when you need it.



GETTING STARTED

Making changes doesn't have to be overwhelming. Start small and build from there, even one new action each month can add up to a big difference over time.

Go for the easy wins first

Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will your recycling setup. Begin with the simple things you can change straight away.

Make it a team effort

Involve your family, staff, or both so everyone's on the same page. A regular initiative like "Farm Tidy Friday" can get everyone pitching in together.

Cut waste at the source

Talk to your suppliers about reducing packaging. Ask if they can skip the shrink wrap or take back packaging once products are delivered.

Use what you've already got

You don't need fancy bins or racks to start. Ice cream containers, cardboard boxes, old wheelie bins, or even a DIY pallet bin all do the job. Get the kids involved by decorating containers with leftover paint.

Keep info handy

Post recycling info on the noticeboard, label containers clearly, or add details to your farm map so everyone knows what goes where.

Celebrate your wins

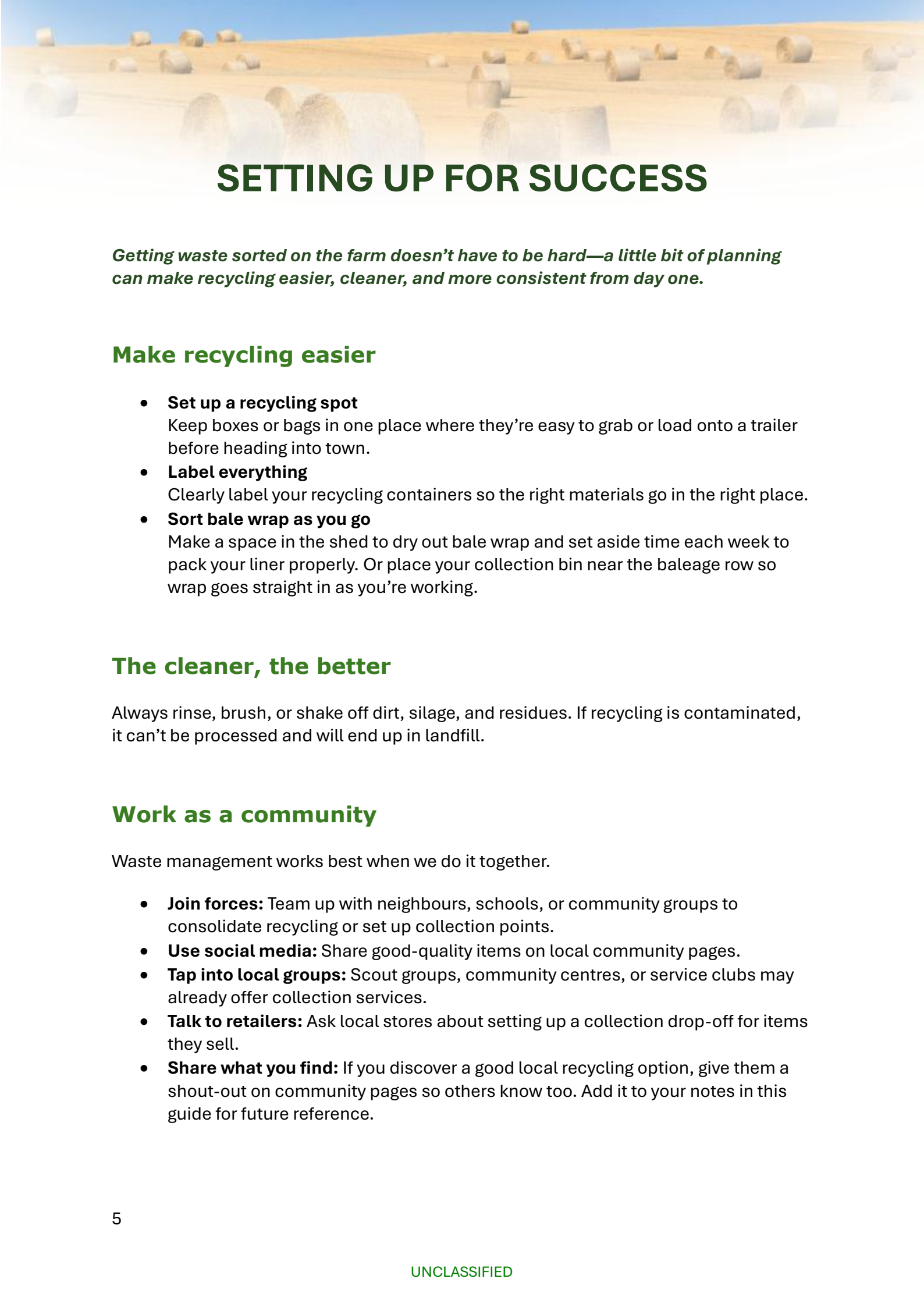
Acknowledge the effort. A round of fish and chips, a shared morning tea, or a simple thank you goes a long way.

Use the internet

Not sure what to do with something? A quick search for "recycling [item] near me" often brings up local solutions. Keep a list of what you find for next time.

Useful Tip

DairyNZ has some great resources on farm waste management. Check them out here: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/environment/waste-management/waste-management-overview/>



SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

Getting waste sorted on the farm doesn't have to be hard—a little bit of planning can make recycling easier, cleaner, and more consistent from day one.

Make recycling easier

- **Set up a recycling spot**
Keep boxes or bags in one place where they're easy to grab or load onto a trailer before heading into town.
- **Label everything**
Clearly label your recycling containers so the right materials go in the right place.
- **Sort bale wrap as you go**
Make a space in the shed to dry out bale wrap and set aside time each week to pack your liner properly. Or place your collection bin near the baleage row so wrap goes straight in as you're working.

The cleaner, the better

Always rinse, brush, or shake off dirt, silage, and residues. If recycling is contaminated, it can't be processed and will end up in landfill.

Work as a community

Waste management works best when we do it together.

- **Join forces:** Team up with neighbours, schools, or community groups to consolidate recycling or set up collection points.
- **Use social media:** Share good-quality items on local community pages.
- **Tap into local groups:** Scout groups, community centres, or service clubs may already offer collection services.
- **Talk to retailers:** Ask local stores about setting up a collection drop-off for items they sell.
- **Share what you find:** If you discover a good local recycling option, give them a shout-out on community pages so others know too. Add it to your notes in this guide for future reference.



MAKE DISPOSAL THE LAST RESORT

Not all waste is waste – a smart approach starts with reducing what comes onto the farm, repairing or reusing where we can, recycling if possible, and treating disposal as the final option.

Reduce

The best waste is the waste you never create. Think about disposal before you buy:

- **Choose smarter products:** Look for less packaging, reusable options, or items that can be recycled more easily.
- **Buy second-hand:** Great deals are often available online.
- **Share instead of buy:** Could you borrow from a neighbour, or co-purchase items you don't need every day?

Reuse and repair

Not everything that breaks needs to be thrown out.

- **Repair first:** A local repair person, or a quick search on the internet, might be all you need to fix something or find the right replacement part.
- **Use a bit of Kiwi ingenuity:** Our “number 8 wire mentality” still applies; sometimes a bit of DIY thinking is all it takes.
- **Buy second-hand:** Supporting the reuse economy keeps good items in circulation and out of landfill.

Donate what you no longer need

If you don't need it, someone else might.

- **Community sharing:** Local buy/sell pages on social media are great places to pass things on.
- **Second-hand shops:** Many accept good-quality, working items. Just check first to see what they take.

Only burn what you should

Stick to burning **untreated timber, paper, cardboard, or dry vegetation**. Burning other materials can contaminate soil, release harmful chemicals, or create strong, unpleasant odours. Check your regional council website for more detail on what's allowed.

Why not plastics? Bonfires don't get hot enough to fully burn plastic. Instead, they release toxins such as carbon monoxide, heavy metals, dioxins, and furans. These can harm people and animals, and some contaminants can even build up in animal fat and enter the food chain. (Source: DairyNZ)

Mark contaminated sites

If your farm has old landfill spots or contaminated areas, **mark them clearly on your farm map**. This prevents future issues, like someone trying to source water or build near those areas.

It's also best to avoid earthworks, cultivation, or intensive winter grazing in contaminated zones to reduce the risk of spreading pollutants.

Talk to your suppliers

Suppliers play a big role in what ends up on your farm—and what ends up in your bin.

Having a quick chat with them about packaging and materials can make a real difference. Many agriculture and horticulture product manufacturers are starting to offer smarter options, like return for recycling, reusable containers or alternatives to single-use items, which help cut down waste at the source.

Ask your supplier if they offer any of these options. Some already do, and others might be willing to explore it if they know there's demand. The less packaging you bring onto the farm, the less you have to deal with later.

Waste management is becoming a bigger part of how farms are judged—by markets, consumers, and regulators. So every step toward reducing materials and improving recycling helps your operation stay ahead, both practically and sustainably.



FARM WASTE MANAGEMENT

There are a wide range of options to help you deal with the materials you can't avoid.

Recycling options for farm plastics

Many of the farm plastics below can be recycled through Agrecovery (www.agrecovery.co.nz) and Plasback (www.plasback.co.nz). Both offer proof of recycling for audits and reporting. Details of collection points or on-farm collections are listed on their websites.

ITEM	RECYCLING INFORMATION
Bale netting	Unfortunately, bale netting can't be recycled. The only safe option is disposal at an off-farm, engineered landfill. Place it in a wool fadge or large bag so it doesn't get tangled in machinery and take it to your local transfer station.
Bale wrap	Prep: Keep it clean, separated from twine, and pack it into approved liners. Recycled by: • Plasback - Large and small liners are available. Tip: Place your collection bin or bag close to your bale stack so you can strip the wrap off and bag it straight away. This keeps it as clean as possible. How clean is clean? Brush or shake off soil and plant material. Avoid excess water, mud and stones. Make sure no other objects are put in the liner.
Baling twine	Prep: Keep it clean, separated from bale wrap, and pack it into approved liners. Recycled by: • Plasback - Large and small liners are available.
Chemical containers	Prep: Triple rinse, dry, and keep bungs and lids separate. Recycled by:

	– Agrecovery: – 1-60L - Drop off to collection sites at participating stations and stores. – 61-1000L - Book on farm collection or drop off at limited participating sites. – Free for participating brands. – Plasback: – Ecolab 100L and 200L drums. Contact Plasback to arrange collection.
Feed and fertiliser bags	Prep: Shake them out, they must be clean inside and out. Recycled by: • Agrecovery • Small LDPE bags Order a free green liner through Plasback, (fits around 100 sacks) and a coded zip-tie, then return to a drop-off point. Free for participating brands. • Small woven polypropylene bags Order a free purple liner (fits around 100 sacks) and a coded zip-tie, then return to a drop-off point. Free for participating brands. • Plasback - Large and small liners are available • Large 500kg and 1T woven bags Collect in a Plasback liner. Book collection online. • Local Drop-offs: • Check www.agrecovery.co.nz for locations
Irrigation pipe	Prep: Clean, coil up in a bag or roll neatly (note: no effluent pipe). Recycled by: • Plasback - Contact Empak for more information (https://empak.co.nz/services/plasback-recycling/)
Netting (shade type)	Prep: Must be free of tape, rope, wire, or anything else. Black and white netting can be mixed. Recycled by: • Plasback – Contact Empak for more information (https://empak.co.nz/services/plasback-recycling/)

Plant pots	Prep: Shake off soil and clean Recycled by: • Mitre 10 (pots with #5 recycling symbol) • Bunnings (pots with #5 recycling symbol, selected stores only) • Many local garden centres take pots for reuse by customers.
Shrink wrap	Prep: Keep it as clean as possible and separate from bale wrap or silage covers. Recycled by: • Plasback may collect it (case-by-case) if packed into their liners. • Check online as there may be other collection contractors near you
Silage covers	Prep: Broom off, fold neatly, don't tie. Recycled by: • Plasback – Book collection online.
Tree guards	Only corflute guards accepted (no other types). Prep: Clean, separate, and bag in a liner. Recycled by: • Plasback - Large and small liners are available

Non-plastic items

A variety of recycling or safe disposal options exists for many non-plastic items.

ITEM	RECYCLING INFORMATION
Batteries - large	Recycled by: - Battery retailers – Local Transfer Station, Repco, Supercheap Auto, Century Yuasa, Mitre 10, Bunnings AA Battery Service Local Transfer Stations Local Service Centres and Libraries
Cardboard	Prep: Keep it clean and flatten it Recycled by: Local Transfer Stations
Chemicals	Prep: Keep chemicals in their original containers if possible. Safely disposed of by: Agrecovery – Register your chemicals for free or subsidised collection. Check with Agrecovery for timeframes. Less than 20L: Free drop-off is available. - Amberley Transfer Station
Gumboots	Prep: Clean Recycled by: Bata runs a gumboot recycling service.
Paint & pails/tins	Recycled by: Local Transfer Stations
Pallets	Don't just dump them, pallets are handy! They can be reused or upcycled into compost bins, calf pens, hen houses, shelves, or play projects for kids.

	• Some companies offer refunds if returned. • Local Lions Clubs may also run pallet collections. • Local Transfer Station
Scrap metal	Prep: Keep a drum for scrap metal offcuts on the farm. Recycled by: • Local scrap metal dealers. Some will collect from your farm and you may get paid for it. • <i>Check if your local school is running (or could run) a scrap metal fundraiser, often they'll get a skip bin delivered for the community to fill.</i> Local options: • Local Transfer Stations • Weka Pass Railway - Waipara
Sharps	Needles from vet medications should never go in farm skips or landfill. Prep: Buy a sharps container from your vet Safely disposed of by: • Your local vet - Return the container to them when it's full (check that they accept filled containers when you purchase it).
Treated timber	The only safe disposal is through an engineered, off-farm landfill. Treated timber contains toxic chemicals (chromium, copper, arsenic). Burning it releases toxins into the air and contaminated ash pollutes land and water. • Local Transfer Stations
Tyres	If you're replacing tyres at a tyre shop or getting a tractor tyre replaced by a retailer on farm, the cost of disposal and recycling is included in the price of the new tyre. The retailer will take the old tyres from you. For other tyres: Prep: clean, rims off, only five tyres at a time for free. (For large volumes, contact Tyrewise.) Recycled by:

	• Tyrewise via https://www.tyrewise.co.nz/registered-partners/_participant_cat-collection-site/ • Local Transfer Stations
Vaccine packs	Zoetis Livestock Vaccine packs and MSD Vaccine Vaxipaks can be recycled for free via your vet. Plastic pouches from Zoetis or MSD vaccination products can also be dropped back at vet clinics for recycling. Prep: Empty, clean (no mud or blood), remove stoppers and any string. Recycled by: • Plasback via your vet
Vehicle oil	Prep: place in appropriate sealed container, domestic quantities only (max 25L at a time) Recycled by: • Supercheap Auto selected stores only • Amberley Transfer Station
Zoetis teat seal	Prep: Empty, clean. Recycled by: • Via your vet.

COMPOSTING DEAD STOCK

There is increasing farmer interest in composting dead stock. With a bit of effort upfront, this can be an effective and cost-efficient way to manage dead stock with minimal impacts on the farm environment.

“Static pile composting is magical. The animal is enveloped in carbon-based material and left for months or years with no turning or work required.” Cornell Waste Management Institute 2012. Mortality Composting - Cornell Waste Management Institute

YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXJ30jXUx_I

Dairy NZ: Composting dead stock - DairyNZ |

ECan: Managing on-farm compost | Environment Canterbury



LOCAL RECYCLING CONTACTS/OPTIONS

Find out the best way to deal with your waste

District council websites

- Ashburton District Council : <https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling>
- Timaru District Council: <https://timaru.govt.nz/services/environment/waste-minimisation>
- Waitaki District Council: [What can I take where? | Waitaki District Council](#)
- Waimate District Council: [Rubbish and Recycling - Waimate District Council](#)

Regional council website

- Environment Canterbury:
<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/waste-and-hazardous-substances/rural-waste-prevention-and-management/>

Product type	Where it can be recycled locally	Name/Address of place to take it or contact details to arrange pick-up
<i>Eg. sharps</i>	<i>VetEnt</i>	

HOUSEHOLD & STAFF/OFFICE

ITEM	RECYCLING INFORMATION
Batteries	AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, 6V, button cells, power tool batteries, and other handheld sizes. Prep: Store in a sealed container (e.g. yoghurt pottle). Tape over exposed terminals (or both faces of button batteries). Keep labels visible. Accepted at: • Local Transfer Stations • Local Service Centres and Libraries
Clothing	Prep: Clothing must be clean. Store in a bag or box and check with stores before dropping off items as some may not accept particular items regardless of condition. Recycled by: • Good condition: donate to second-hand shops. Accepted at: • local second-hand clothing stores/op-shops. • Amberley Transfer Station
Coffee pods	Recycled by: • Terracycle: accepts L'OR, Moccona, Jeds, Dolce Gusto, Robert Harris: terracycle.com/en-NZ • Nespresso: collection points, in-store drop-off, or doorstep collection: nespresso.com/nz/en/how-to-recycle-coffee-capsules • Amberley and Hanmer Springs Transfer Stations
Electronic waste	Accepted at: • Local Transfer Stations

Glass	Prep: Bottles and jars must be clean and empty, remove caps and lids. Accepted at: • Local Transfer Station
Health products	Recycled by: • Brands like Gillette and Colgate are accepted by Terracycle: terracycle.com/en-NZ
Light bulbs	Accepted at: • Mitre 10 - Household bulbs (fluorescent or LED) mitre10.co.nz/lightbulbrecycling • Amberley and Hanmer Springs Transfer Station
Newspaper & Cardboard (Home and Business)	Prep: flatten and bundle together (do not tie with string) for return. Accepted at: • Local Transfer Stations
Pet food bags	Prep: clean and shake out bags and store bags of same material type together for return to collection point. Recycled by: • Animates and Petstock - Most stores accept bags. • Free recycling: Eukanuba, Royal Canin, Hills, Black Hawk (dry food bags and wet food pouches). • Your local vet – check with them first
Plastics (1, 2 & 5)	Prep: Must be clean and lids removed. Accepted at: • Local Transfer Stations
Polystyrene	Prep: collect in a suitable bag to keep contained. Polystyrene must be clean. Accepted at: DO NOT BURN: releases toxic chemicals.

Resealable food packaging	Wash, dry, and reuse for lunchboxes or storing small items. Items numbered 1,2 or 5? See above
Second-hand items	Prep: items must be clean and in working order. Check with the store prior to dropping off the items as some don't accept certain items (eg. electrical goods). Recycled by: • Local secondhand stores or community recycling centres
Soft plastics	Prep: plastic must be clean. Collect in a soft plastic bag for return to the participating store. Recycled by: • Local supermarkets - Check if your supermarket participates: recycling.kiwi.nz/store-locator • The Warehouse - Some stores also collect.
Wine bottle lids/can tabs/plastic bottle tops	Prep: rinse caps and collect in a suitable container Recycled by: • Donate to Lions Club to support Kidney Kids: lionsclubs.org.nz/partnerships/our-partners/kidney-kids (not plastic lids at Lions) • Local Transfer Stations • Local Service Centres and Libraries

Check out our local and national recycling providers websites:

- **Agrecovery** - <https://agrecovery.co.nz/>
- **Farm Source** - <https://store.nzfarmsource.co.nz/campaigns/rubbish-to-reusable>
- **Plasback** - <https://plasback.co.nz/>
- **Repost** - [Repost - Premium Wooden Fencing Solutions in NZ](#)
- **Recycle Map** – www.recyclemap.co.nz
- **Terracycle** - <https://www.terracycle.com/en-NZ/>
- **Ashburton District Council** <https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling>
- **Timaru District Council** - <https://timaru.govt.nz/services/environment/waste-minimisation>
- **WasteMINZ Battery Recycle Locations Map** - <https://www.wasteminz.org.nz/our-work/hot-topics/battery-collection-facilities>
- **Waimate District Council** - <https://www.waimatedc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling>
- **Waitaki District Council:** [What can I take where? | Waitaki District Council](#)

OTHER OPTIONS FOR RESOURCE RECOVERY

ITEM	OPTION	DESCRIPTION	MORE INFO
Aluminium	Drop off only	Tin foil, foil tray	metal recyclers only
Appliances	Drop off only	Whiteware/fridges/driers/toasters etc	If still working, consider selling or donating. Ashburton and Rakaia Resource Recovery Park.
Child car seats	Drop off only	Boosters, capsules, child seats	All South Canterbury transfer stations, Ashburton and Rakaia Resource Recovery Park. A small charge may apply
Carpet	Drop off only	Rugs, mats, floor coverings (good condition)	All Timaru District transfer stations
CDs and DVDs	Drop off only	Bulk CDs and DVDs – contact Stebbings	<u>Stebbing Recording: Contact</u> For working items, deliver to Timaru District transfer stations
Curtains	Drop off only	Textiles	If good condition, consider selling or donating to a curtain bank or Red Cross. All Timaru District transfer stations
Food and drink cartons	Drop off only	Liquid paperboard – juice boxes, drink cartons	Nearest drop off is Kilmarnock Enterprises, Christchurch
Footwear	Drop off only	Shoes	If good condition, consider selling or donating.
Furniture and household goods	Drop off,	Good quality only – staff have the right of refusal	All Timaru District transfer stations. some large goods can be collected by arrangement
Glasses	Drop off only	Prescription, reading, sunglasses	Specsavers, Ocula and Lions Clubs – these are sent throughout the Pacific region
Gas cylinders	Drop off only	Gas bottles and canisters	Hazardous – all Timaru District transfer stations; metal recyclers (if degassed). Ashburton and Rakaia Resource Recovery Parks.
Hi Viz clothing	Drop off only	Workwear	Workwear Recycled in Timaru: https://workwearrecycled.co.nz
Make up containers	Drop off only	Mascara, lipstick, skin and hair care	Terracycle, Mecca Stores, Sephora Stores; Mac will take their own brand back
Medical waste	Drop off only	Medicines, sharps, lancets	Return unused meds to your pharmacy. They may accept sharps in a suitable container
Printer and ink cartridges	Drop off only	Ink, toner and drum cartridges	Some brands offer a takeback service: Brother, HP, Canon Some retailers offer a drop off: Harvey Norman, The Warehouse Stationery



NOTES: