

# Steel can recycling the facts

- 1> Steel is 100% recyclable, there is no limit to how many times it can be recycled
- 2> In Australia, the average person uses 5.5 kilograms of steel cans every year and recycles only 2.6 kilograms
- 3> Recycling steel cans saves natural resources in two ways:
  - Recycled steel is a necessary element in the steel making process
  - Making steel from recycled cans uses 75% less energy than using new materials
- 4> Steel cans contain as much as 25% recycled material, so every time you buy steel cans you close the recycling loop
- 5> Australians send enough steel cans to landfill to rebuild the Sydney Harbour Bridge every year
- 6> Steel cans that are not recycled make up 2-3% of the garbage that goes to landfill

“did you know anything a magnet can stick to, is steel and therefore recyclable”



**cansmart**<sup>®</sup>

steel can recycling campaign

## So are you a smart steel can recycler?

If you would like more information or details on the services in your area visit our website at [www.cansmart.org](http://www.cansmart.org) or call our hotline on 1800 073 713 or email us at [info@cansmart.org](mailto:info@cansmart.org)

Cansmart is an initiative of the Steel Can Recycling Council. The Council is made up of the Aerosol Association, BlueScope Steel, Canned Food Industry Association and the Can Makers Institute of Australia.



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the smart way to  
**recycle**  
your steel cans



“stop resources going to landfill and become a smart steel can recycler”

  
**cansmart**<sup>®</sup>  
steel can recycling campaign



# How to recycle your household steel cans

## How do I prepare my steel food cans for recycling?

### Food cans

Includes dried food beverages, such as coffee, infant formula cans and petfood cans.



Empty contents



Rinse in sink



Put lid inside



Squeeze in top

### 1> Empty contents

Empty can and take the lid completely off

### 2> Rinse in sink

Rinse your cans at the end of washing up (to avoid wasting water)

### 3> Put lid inside

Place lids, including jam jar lids and bottle tops, inside the can

### 4> Squeeze in top

Squeeze can at the top to save space in your recycling bin or crate and also to stop lids and bottle tops from falling out of the can

## What other steel products can I recycle?

### Paint cans

- Empty or brush excess paint onto newspaper and dispose of it in your garbage bin when dry
- Remove the lid and allow any paint left in the can to dry thoroughly

### Aerosol cans

- Remove the large plastic top and place the aerosol can in recycling bin
- Do not squash or puncture aerosol cans

### Cooking oil cans

- Drain excess oil from can
- Remove plastic lids



Please place only steel cans and aerosols in the recycling. Contact your council for information on the safe disposal of fire extinguishers, gas cylinders and other steel materials.

## What happens to the cans I recycle?

Steel cans are 100% recyclable - here's what happens to them:

- Steel cans are collected from households
- The cans are sorted magnetically or by hand and are compacted for ease of transport
- They are taken to the nearest steelworks
- They are then turned into everyday steel products such as cars, fridges, cans and bicycles

Get into the loop and recycle your steel cans!

# Tips on reusing your steel cans

- Use your empty coffee or Milo™ can to store tops from glass bottles and lids for recycling. When full, put the lid back on and place into your recycling
- Use larger empty steel cans for washing out and storing paint brushes
- When planting tree seedlings use a steel can with the bottom cut out, this helps contain water
- Use steel cans to make your own fastener collection, ie screws, nuts, nails, bolts for the home handyman
- Use larger steel cans as the BBQ drain. When the can is full, empty waste onto newspaper, wrap it up and place into garbage bin and reuse the can

“  
use a ring pull  
can to make a  
pen holder  
for your desk

”



The amount of steel cans Australians send to landfill each year is enough to fill 2000 family homes