



RAPIDTM
 Spill Response



RECYCLING
 THE BEGINNERS GUIDE
 2018



Recycling – The Beginners Guide

Introduction

Recycling is not a new concept in South Africa. However a lot of individuals and corporate companies still struggle with the implementation of working processes to assist in the sorting and recycling of various waste streams.

With the world population continuously growing and manufacturing processes changing daily, we find that waste streams are increasing at radical rates and need to be managed better.

From Household to retail and manufacturing waste, we need to understand which waste streams can be reused or recycled.

There are a lot of up and coming or established recycling companies in South Africa who can assist with the management of general or day to day waste stream, but when it comes to Hazardous waste (e.g. Fluorescent tubes, oils, filters, paints, chemicals, fuels, etc.) it is important to ensure that the correct steps and treatment processes are followed.

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1. National Environmental Waste ACT

Whereas everyone has the constitutional right to have an environment that is not harmful to his or her health and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures that—

- (a) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
- (b) promote conservation: and
- (c) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development;

To see the complete ACT – Click on the link: [NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE ACT](#)

2. Why should you recycle?

Facts being facts, we have limited resources on our planet.

- *Water*
- *Soil*
- *Minerals (Coal, oil, etc.)*

And if we do not start to live less wasteful lives, we are going to lose the precious volumes we have left.

3. The 3 R's

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle

Easy to understand and say, but how do you implement this at work or home?

Reduce:

Reduce the amount you consume.

Do not buy it if you do not need it.

Look at purchasing products that are natural or biodegradable.

Remember, your purchase influences how products are made or packaged.

Reuse:

Before throwing away or recycling anything, see if there is an alternative use for it.

You might not have a use for it but there are people who make livings for themselves by reusing or repurposing items for resell. (Canvas bags, Coffee Tin Lamp, Jam Jar Glasses)



Recycle:

If the first 2 options fail, recycle to products. South African entrepreneurs are recycling and reusing the products on a daily basis.

Assisting with ensuring that less raw or virgin materials need to be mined, harvested or grown.

Do you have a recycling plan in your area?
Are there people who can benefit from this?

4. What can be recycled?

- Metal (Food cans, Aerosol, oil, paint & beverage cans)
- Paper (Boxes, magazines, newspapers)
- Glass (Sauce bottles, jars, wine bottles)

- Plastic (plastics bags & bottles, cling wrap)
- Milk & Fruit Juice containers
- E-Waste (Computers, cell phones, appliances)
- Batteries (Alkaline, button batteries, Car batteries)
- Fluorescent lights (Tubes & Bulbs)
- Motor Oil (Used oil, oil containers, oil filters)
- Biodegradable products (Compostable products, Food items)

5. Waste information system

The South African Waste Information Centre provides the public, business, industry and government with access to information on the management of waste in South Africa.

The Centre also provides users with access to the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS).

The South African Waste Information System (SAWIS) developed by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in 2005, is a system used by government and industry to capture routine data on the tonnages of waste generated, recycled and disposed of in South Africa on a monthly and annual basis.



6. Waste Management Plan – Link <http://rapidspillresponse.com/?p=2241>

[Guidelines for the development of an Integrated Waste Management Plan](#)

[Site Waste Management Plan Template.](#)

Help us keep the guide up to date

This document is a guideline to start recycling and waste management processes and understand what you can do as an individual or company to protect our natural resources. With ever changing technologies and process, there might be information that can be amended or added. If possible, please submit information or updates to spark@rapidspillresponse.com

Also see our website for Waste management service & solutions. www.rapidspillresponse.com

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better safe than sorry