

**IWMA Shares Top Tips to help consumers reduce their impact on the environment  
by recycling more household waste**

**28 November 2023:** The Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) has issued some timely hints and tips to help people to segregate their waste more effectively at home.

**Top Tips:**

1. Every household should have three bins by 2024. If you don't yet have a brown bin for food waste, composting garden waste will reduce waste in your bins.
2. Put food and garden waste in the brown bin. It is illegal to put food or garden waste in general bins where brown bins are available.
3. It is important that you do not contaminate your food waste with packaging. Wrapping food in small amounts of newspapers is ok. Soiled paper napkins and kitchen roll can also go into the brown bin.
4. All plastic packaging (soft and rigid), tins and cans, paper and cardboard are suitable for recycling. Make sure recyclables put in the bin are **clean, dry and loose**. Check [iwma.ie](http://iwma.ie) or [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie) for a list of what should go in the recycling bin.
5. Keep a food diary to help you monitor food waste and adjust your weekly shop to buy only what you need. Between €400 and €1,000 is thrown into the bin each year by households putting unused food into the bin<sup>1</sup>.
6. Use your civic amenity centre to dispose of paints and oils, wood and metal and glass bottles and jars. Bring clean clothes to charity shops, or to textile banks.
7. Electrical and electronic waste can be brought to your local electrical store or to your civic amenity centre.
8. Vapes should be returned to the retailers that sell them. They should not be put in any of your bins.
9. Batteries can be returned to any stores that sell batteries or electrical goods. **Do not place batteries in any other bins as they are a fire hazard when crushed in waste collection vehicles.**
10. Apartment buildings are required by law to provide three bins for general waste, recycling waste and food waste. Ask your management company to provide three bins, if it is not already doing so. Campaign for more recycling bins in public places.

**Conor Walsh, secretary, IWMA said;** "Ireland has the most advanced system of household waste collection in the world in the context of data collection, management and reporting. We're now able to recycle more types of waste and with the help of householders we can really make a positive impact on the environment with just a little more care and attention to what we are putting in our bins".

"Householders can do their bit, but we also need producers to play their part. Government must put more pressure on producers to use less packaging or at least use recyclable packaging if they are not willing to do so voluntarily. We've seen the positive impact Government have had on the use of plastic bags and the use of single use plastics and they can be doing more with producers".

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [www.mywaste.ie](http://www.mywaste.ie)

“We also need to see recycling and food waste bins in all public places and premises. A single waste bin does not help people to do the right thing with their waste.

“With everyone playing their part, we can help the country to meet its recycling targets so that we avoid unnecessary fines that mean we have less money to spend on public infrastructure such as transport, schools, hospitals and leisure facilities”.

**Ends.**

**Editors Note:**

A failure to meet the recycling targets is likely to lead to a prosecution by the EU Courts and that could lead to a fine for Ireland in the region of €100,000 per day, which is money that should be spent on schools, hospitals, swimming pools, public transport, social welfare, etc. rather than on fines that can be avoided if we all make the effort.

**For further information please contact:**

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