

HOME SORTING

SKAFTÁRHREPPUR 02.2020

IN A NUTSHELL

All residential waste can be sorted. There are 11 categories for home sorting paper and cardboard, plastic, return bottles, organic waste, metals, glass, textile, electronics, candles, hazardous waste and others. Waste is not waste unless it is mixed.

PAPER AND CARDBOARD

In this category goes all corrugated paper, cardboard and paper. This includes milk cartons, paper bags, giftbags, sandpaper, toilet paper tubes, newspapers, magazines, receipts etc. Keep in mind that everything need to be clean and dry.



RETURN BOTTLES

There has been a return system on bottles in Iceland since 1989. It has been the only payment-based return system for many years. Bottles need to be whole and undamaged, in which case there is a 16 kr compensation for the return of each bottle.



METALS

All metals go together, e.g. aluminum foil, drip pans, jar lids, yoghurt films, glass bottle caps, aluminum cans, tea light holders etc. There is relatively large environmental savings potential in the process of recycling of metals.

PLASTIC

All plastic goes into this category, e.g. plastic bags, non-returnable plastic bottles, skyr boxes and spoons, plastic packaging, toothbrushes, toys, cleaning gloves, plastic laminated paper, sponges, polystyrene, bags from wine boxes etc. Keep in mind to remove all batteries from toys, metals from packaging and rinse organic waste off the plastic.



ORGANIC WASTE

All food waste should be sorted together, but also napkins, old flowers, sawdust, garden waste, dirty newspaper etc. There are some extra requirements in order to compost leftover meat and fish (see instructions on home composting on EPA website www.epa.gov). Avoid putting ash, cigarette buds, vacuum cleaner bags and harmful materials with the organic waste.

RECYCLING CENTER

RESOURCE INTERNATIONAL EHF.



AGGREGATE AND GLASS

Glass is mostly made of sand. That is why glass is collected with aggregate, porcelain, cat litter, concrete, tiles etc.

TIMBER

It is important to keep painted and clean wood separate. The reason for this is that clean wood can be used as material for furniture and is good for composting. Painted and plastered wood, on the other hand, has no other waste treatment option than burning or landfilling.



TEXTILES AND CANDLES

The red cross has containers for all textiles. These containers take clothes, duvet covers, pillows, handbags, rags, mops etc. Candle remnants are easy to reuse if they are melted and the wick renewed. Candle residue reception is at the nearest recycling center.



ELECTRONICS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

It is very important that these materials do not go into the mixed waste bin. Examples of electrical appliances are phones, remote controls, cables, electrically controlled toys etc. Some companies pay for broken electronics. Examples of hazardous materials are batteries, bulbs, medicine, paints, detergents, nail polish, cosmetics, pressure bottles (e.g. whipped cream and hairspray). All of these substances must be returned to the nearest recycling center, and pharmacies accept medication and prescription tablets.



OTHER WASTE

Are you in doubt about some things? It is a good idea to put things that you are unsure about in one group, browse the web, discuss and ask for help with sorting next time you go to a recycling center. Diapers and vacuum bags are common disposable items that have no other treatment option and should be put into mixed waste.

WASTE HIERARCHY

RESOURCE INTERNATIONAL EHF.

IN A NUTSHELL

There are many ways to minimize waste



MINIMIZE WASTE

There are various ways to reduce waste generation. Buy products without packaging. If you love tea, it is good to change from a bag to French press. If you write a lot you can find a refillable pen. Switch into cloth tissues instead of those made of paper. Buy packaging free cosmetics and soaps. Freeze food before it goes to waste.



REUSE

Jars are good containers and lunch boxes are not waste even if they have been forgotten for some time. Many things are discarded because they are dirty. Clean, repair and pass on.



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REFUSE

It is good to start by eliminating disposable products and reducing purchases, especially that which is known to be of no use or unnecessary. Avoid falling into the "discount pit".



REPAIR

Repair or change the use of an item to prevent it from being thrown out. Change an old garment into a rag. Repair the electronics and use leftover wood in various kinds of crafting etc.



USE YOUR SHARING ECONOMY

Remember the library, check the second-hand market before buying new, check if your friends or neighbors own what you need, borrow, check the Klaustur's sales pages and if there is a need for a platform to share, create it.