

Changes to New Zealand Recycling Symbols

October 2016

After reviewing the consultation feedback and the recommendations of the technical working group the Behaviour Change Sector Group Steering Committee has endorsed the following updates to the New Zealand Recycling Symbols.

The following colours have been adopted:

1. **Purple** – reuse, furniture and fabric
2. **Brown** – construction and demolition
3. **Black** – metal, appliances, ewaste and tyres
4. **Hazardous Symbol**- lightbulbs, chemicals, oil, paint

That the following wording be adopted:

Note people will have the ability to change or customise the bottom line.

Note this is not a complete list of all the symbols, but just examples from each waste stream.

Top	Bottom
Rubbish	Landfill
Recycling	Plastic Glass & Cans
Food	Scraps
Food	& Compostable Packaging
Garden	Cuttings
Glass	Bottles & Jars
Paper	
Cardboard	Flattened
Reuse	Furniture
Reuse	Clothing & Rags
Wood	Treated
Plasterboard	
Cans	Food & Drink

Metal	
Appliances	
Electronics	
Hazardous	Car Batteries

Commentary

- It was agreed that the primary aim of the symbols is to encourage correct separation by the public.
- The term ewaste has not been used. Firstly, as Ewaste suggests that items have no value whereas we want to encourage people that these items are worth recycling as they do have value. Secondly the Scrap Metal Association provided feedback that they were opposed to the term ewaste. Finally in the future the lines between what is ewaste and what is an appliance may become blurred as more and more items such as fridges and dishwashers have computer chips and electronics embedded.
- The Recommendation is to use the words Appliances or Electronics with organisations having the option to describe in the bottom line any key waste streams e.g. Appliances Fridges, Electronics Televisions
- The Recycling Symbols are designed in a pdf so that organisations have the ability to change the wording on the bottom line if they have access to a version of Acrobat XI Standard or higher
- Organisations are not able to change the symbol or icon.
- Organisations requiring new icons will be able to contact the designer and commission a symbol for a fee.