

# STANDARD COLOURS OF RUBBISH & RECYCLING BINS



RED  
PMS 032

RUBBISH



GREY  
PMS 423

PAPER/CARDBOARD



LIME GREEN  
PMS 361

FOOD WASTE & COMBINED  
FOOD/GARDEN WASTE



YELLOW  
PMS 109

MIXED RECYCLING  
plastic, glass, cans, paper etc



BLUE  
PMS 299

GLASS BOTTLES & JARS  
OF ANY COLOUR



DARK GREEN  
PMS 553

GARDEN WASTE

To make it easier for the public to recycle effectively, councils around New Zealand, The Packaging Forum, who initiate public place recycling schemes; and key industry partners have agreed to use standard colours to indicate which mobile bin is for rubbish, which is for paper recycling, food waste recycling et al. Using standard colours for recycling at home, at work and in public places, will minimise confusion for the public, increase recycling and reduce contamination.



# STANDARD COLOURS OF RUBBISH & RECYCLING BINS

## HOW THE COLOURS SHOULD BE USED

### On household kerbside wheelie bins

The body of the bin should be black or dark green PMS553. The lid should reflect the relevant colour for the waste stream.

### On household kerbside crates

The crate should use the relevant colour, or alternatively black, with the signage in the appropriate colour.

### On internal office or workplace bins

Internal bins should use the relevant colour. Alternatively, where the bin body is metal, it may remain natural or galvanized and signage should be used in the relevant colour.

### On back of house mobile bins

Where possible, mobile bin lids should use the relevant colours. Where it is not appropriate, due to corporate branding requirements, signage of the relevant colour should be used to indicate what can be placed in the bin.

### Public place litter and recycling bins

Symbols on these outdoor bins should use the relevant colour whilst the metal or plastic bin body can remain natural or galvanized.

### Event bins

The bin lid, or cover, or bin station and flags should reflect the relevant colour for the waste stream.

### Drop-off bins (i.e. public recycling centres)

Open bins at a drop-off point should have signage at eye level in the relevant colour for the waste stream.

In addition to the commonly used colours shown here a full suite of colours for a range of materials is available on the WasteMINZ website [www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz).

When implementing recycling collections, businesses are advised to contact their council for local recycling options.

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## SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

New Zealand currently has standardised recycling symbols and signage, which were created in 2001.

These symbols known as the RONZ symbols have been updated with the new colours and are available to use by contacting WasteMINZ [www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz).

A project is now underway to review these symbols and update them in light of changing industry conditions.

The intent is that organisations that own and/or maintain bins and signage will adopt the NZ standard colours as new bins/signs are installed or as bins/signs are replaced and/or contracts are renewed over time.

For any questions on how to use these colours or the appropriate signage to use please contact WasteMINZ on 09 476 7162.

**Thank you for joining us in making it easier for New Zealanders to recycle.**