



Waste Sorting Guide for Citizens in Europe



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Waste Sorting Guide for Citizens in Europe



Waste sorting in Europe generally follows a standardized, color-coded system to manage waste, with regulations prioritizing source separation of plastics, metal, paper, glass, and organic waste.

While specific rules vary by municipality, common European standards include blue for paper, yellow/light packaging for plastics and metals, green/white for glass, brown for organic, and grey/black for non-recyclable residual waste.

Why sorting matters



Sorting waste correctly

- **Reduces landfill waste**
- **Saves energy and raw materials**
- **Lowers CO₂ emissions**
- **Supports a circular economy**



Small actions at home make a big environmental impact!



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Paper and cardboard

How to sort your waste



- **Newspapers and magazines**
- **Office paper**
- **Cardboard boxes**
- **Paper bags**



- ✓ **Clean and dry only**
- ✗ **No greasy pizza boxes or dirty tissues**
- 💡 **Tip: flatten boxes to save space**

Plastic and packaging

How to sort your waste



- **Plastic bottles**
- **Food containers**
- **Shampoo bottles**
- **Metal cans and tins**
- **Drink cartons**



- ✓ **Empty and lightly rinse**
- ✗ **No toys, electronics, or mixed-material items**
- 💡 **Tip: crushing bottles reduces volume**



How to sort your waste



- **Glass bottles**
- **Glass jars**



- ✓ **Separate by color if required (clear/green/brown)**
- ✗ **No ceramics, mirrors, or window glass**
- 💡 **Tip: remove lids and caps before disposal**



Bio-waste (Organic waste)

How to sort your waste



- **Fruit and vegetable scraps**
- **Coffee grounds**
- **Tea bags**
- **Garden waste**



- ✓ **Compostable waste only**
- ✗ **No plastic bags (unless certified compostable)**
- 🌱 **Turns into compost and biogas!**



Residual waste (General waste)

How to sort your waste



- **Hygiene products**
- **Vacuum cleaner bags**
- **Broken ceramics**
- **Non-recyclable packaging**



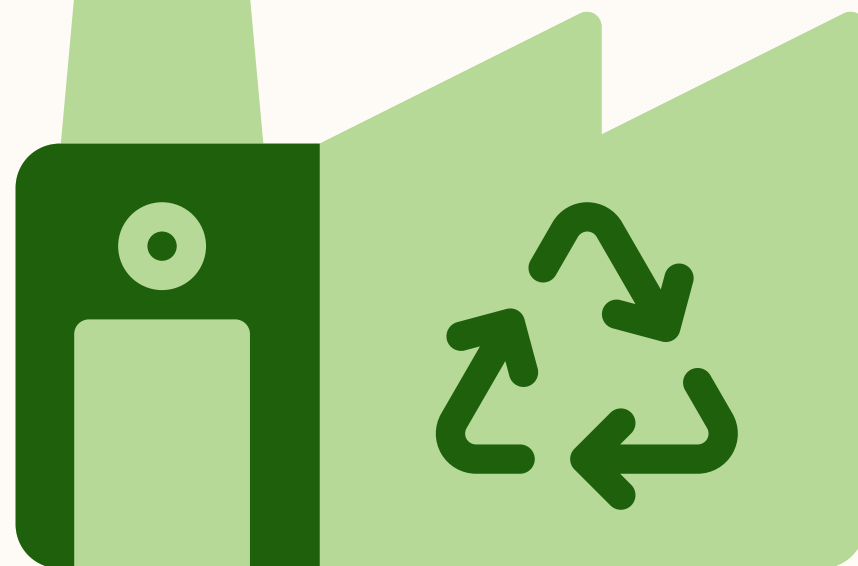
⚠ This is the last resort bin - avoid when possible!



Special waste

How to sort your waste

**Ecoparcs and
recycling
centres**



- **Household and rechargeable batteries**
- **Light bulbs (LED and energy-saving lamps)**
- **Electronics (phones, small appliances, cables)**
- **Medicines (expired or unused)**

⊘ Never dispose of these in household bins



Quick sorting checklist



- ✓ **Empty packaging**
- ✓ **Check local municipal rules**
(rules can vary significantly between cities)
- ✓ **When unsure, check your city website**



Be a recycling champion!



Every correctly sorted item contributes to

- **Cleaner cities**
- **Protected nature**
- **Reduced pollution**
- **A sustainable future for everyone**



Together, we can make a difference, one bin at a time!