Recycling collection in Cologne

What belongs where

Today waste which can be recovered or reused should no longer be thrown in the grey bin.

Because if you separate waste consistently, you not only make a valuable contribution to protecting the environment and valuable resources, but you can also save waste collection charges. Each household in Cologne has a grey bin for so-called residual waste. In addition, there are bins for paper/cardboard (blue bin), for packagings/recoverable materials made of plastic and metals (recoverables bin with yellow lid) and for kitchen/garden waste (biobin).

Do your bit to actively protect the environment: separate your waste!

To find out what happens to your waste, why separating waste makes sense and precisely what waste belongs where: The explanatory AWB videos are available on AWB’s YouTube channel and on its website: www.awbkoeln.de/richtig-trennen, or simply scan the following QR code:

Today waste which can be recovered or reused should no longer be thrown in the grey bin.

Leftover bread, eggshells, coffee grounds including the filter, kitchen waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings and leftovers, old food (without packaging), leftover meals (even if cooked*), tea leaves and teabags, Flowers, garden waste (including grass cuttings), leaves, green waste, shrub cuttings and brushwood

* Only private households are allowed to use the brown bin to dispose of cooked food and kitchen waste.

Tips for using the brown bin:

- Wrap damp kitchen waste in newspaper or paper towels.
- The plastic film bags for organic waste available in shops and online must not be thrown into the brown bin: they decompose too slowly and cause significant problems with the composting process.
- Line the bottom of the bin with newspaper to prevent unwelcome soiling.
WHAT BELONGS IN THE YELLOW BIN:

PLastic Waste

Foam packaging (moulded trays for fruit and vegetables, for example), film wrap, plastic pots (yoghurt pots and margarine tubs, for example), plastic bins, plastic bottles (bottles for washing-up liquid, detergent, personal hygiene products such as shampoo, shower gel, for example), milk and juice cartons, plastic bags, tubes and polystyrene

Metal Waste

Aluminium dishes, covers and foils, cutlery, frying pans, wire clothes hangers, food tins and drink cans, metal bottle caps, metal packaging (for personal hygiene products, for example), screws, pots and pans, bottle tops and jar lids, tools

WHAT BELONGS IN THE BLUE BIN:

PaPer and CardboarD

Printer paper, glossy magazines, cardboard boxes (small and large, large boxes ripped up), catalogues, magazines and newspapers

WHAT BELONGS IN THE GREY BIN:

Ash, broken glass and porcelain, rubber, small bits of waste wood, sanitary products, cat litter, sweepings, medicines, vacuum cleaner bags, wallpaper remnants, nappies and cigarette stubs

AWB’s staff will be pleased to help if you have any questions about any aspect of waste separation:

- Our customer service department: Tel.: 02 21/9 22 22 24, Email: kundenberatung@awbkoeln.de
- Our explanatory videos also show you "what belongs where." Simply scan the QR code: