



waste

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. A mantra we see and hear often. But do we really act? In 2010, 350 000 kg of waste was generated in the Cape Winelands, part of the 3.66 million tons in the Western Cape.¹

The Stellenbosch landfill site in Devon Valley has reached its capacity and further extension of this site is not easily achievable. Various other studies into regional sites in the Stellenbosch area have also shown that the establishment of a new waste disposal site within the boundaries of the Stellenbosch municipal area is extremely unlikely due to the agricultural, cultural and tourism importance of the area.²

The Waste Act (59 of 2008) requires from us to take all reasonable measures to reduce, reuse and recycle and to manage our waste so that it does not cause danger to our health or environment.

We must therefore remember to:

REDUCE the amount of trash we throw away

REUSE containers and products

RECYCLE as much as possible and buy products with recycled content.

De Zalze is currently contracted to Wasteman to remove the waste generated on the estate. All residents are issued with different coloured bags in order to assist in following the waste mantra.

¹ www.westerncape.gov.za

² Stellenbosch Municipality Investigation into Future Waste Management Scenarios. Report: prepared by Jan Palm Consulting Engineers www.stellenbosch.gov.za





WHAT CAN AND CANNOT BE RECYCLED:³

Plastics:

These products cannot degrade because they are made from petroleum-based chemicals (oil) which is a non-renewable source. More than 6 tons of rubbish is dumped in our oceans yearly of which 80% is plastic, with an estimated 4,6000 pieces of plastic per square mile of ocean! Turtles and other sea creatures mistake these for food or get entangled in it causing painful injuries or death. It is estimated that almost a million sea birds and 100 000 mammals are killed every year, mostly by plastic.⁴

The best way to decide whether the product can be recycled is to look for its recycling logo, which will tell us what type of plastic the container is made of. Many plastic items are still not recyclable in SA and except for PET, HDPE and LDPE plastics there is little demand within the recycling industry in SA to recover plastics from post-consumer resources, meaning they currently end up in landfill.

Get to know the following acronyms:

PET: polyethylene terephthalate
HDPE: high-density polyethylene
LDPE: low-density polyethylene
PP: polypropylene

The easiest way to determine if a plastic product can be recycled is by looking for its recycling logo. There are 7 such logos and most plastic packaging is imprinted with these.

³The information provided was taken from www.capetowngreenmap.co.za; www.treevolution.co.za/guide-to-recycling-in-sa/

⁴ Plastic Recycling Fact Sheet 2009 www.cleanup.org.au



THE PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION CODE				
Symbol	Type of Plastic	Properties	Common Uses	Recycled in:
 1 PET	PET Polyethylene Terephthalate	Clear, tough, solvent resistant, barrier to gas and moisture, softens at 80°	Soft drink and water bottles, salad domes, biscuit trays, salad dressing and containers	Pillow and sleeping bag filling, clothing, soft drink bottles, carpeting, building insulation
 2 HDPE	HDPE High Density Polyethylene	Hard to semi-flexible, resistant to chemicals and moisture, waxy surface, opaque, softens at 75°C, easily coloured, processed and formed	Shopping bags, freezer bags, milk bottles, ice cream containers, juice bottles, shampoo, chemical and detergent bottles, buckets, rigid agricultural pipe, crates	Recycling bins, compost bins, buckets, detergent containers, posts, fencing, pipes, plastic timber
 3 PVC	PVC Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-U Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-P	Strong, tough, can be clear, can be solvent welded, softens at 80°C Flexible, clear, elastic, can be solvent welded	Cosmetic containers, electrical conduit, plumbing pipes and fittings, blister packs, wall cladding, roof sheeting, bottles Garden hose, shoe soles, cable sheathing, blood bags and tubing	Flooring, film and sheets, cables, speed bumps, packaging, binders, mud flaps and mats, new gumboots and shoes
 4 LDPE	LDPE Low density Polyethylene	Soft, flexible, waxy surface, translucent, softens at 70°C, scratches easily	Cling wrap, garbage bags, squeeze bottles, irrigation tubing, mulch film, refuse bags	Bin liners, pallet sheets
 5 PP	PP Polypropylene	Hard but still flexible, waxy surface, softens at 140°C, translucent, withstands solvents, versatile	Bottles and ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, straws, microwave dishes, kettles, garden furniture, lunch boxes, packaging tape	Pegs, bins, pipes, pallet sheets, oil funnels, car battery cases, trays
 6 PS  6 PS-E	PS Polystyrene PS-E Expanded polystyrene	Clear, glassy, rigid, opaque, semi-tough, softens at 95°C. Affected by fat, acids and solvents, but resistant to alkalis, salt solutions. Low water absorption, when not pigmented is clear, is odour and taste free. Special types of PS are available for special applications.	CD cases, plastic cutlery, imitation glassware, low cost brittle toys, video cases, Foamed polystyrene cups, takeaway clamshells, foamed meat trays, protective packaging and building and food insulation	Coat hangers, coasters, white ware components, stationery trays and accessories, picture frames, seed trays, building products
 7 OTHER	OTHER Letter below indicate ISO code for plastic type e.g. SAN, ABS, PC, Nylon	Includes all resins and multi-materials (e.g. laminates). Properties dependent on plastic or combination of plastics.	Automotive and appliance components, computers, electronics, cooler bottles, packaging	Automotive components, plastic timber

source: www.gprecycling.co/za/plastics-information/





Tins and Metals:

Around 400 tons of cans are recycled monthly in the Western Cape alone and provides an income to more than 37000 people. These metals are used to make new products of the same quality and recycling them saves about 95% of the energy needed to make a new can from iron ore. Cans can be recycled even if they are crushed, rusted or burnt.

Recycle:

- ✓ Colddrink and beer cans
- ✓ Food tins
- ✓ Metal lids of glass jars
- ✓ Aluminium cans, foil and foil packaging
- ✓ Paint, oil and aerosol cans (please leave labels on them so recyclers can see if they contain hazardous materials)

Cardboard and paper:

These are excellent materials for recycling. For every ton of paper recycled, 17 trees are saved, 40% less energy and 30% less water is required.

Recycle:

- ✓ White office paper
- ✓ Magazines and books
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Cardboard boxes and cereal boxes

Do NOT recycle:

- ✗ Laminated or waxy paper
- ✗ Punch confetti
- ✗ Carbon paper
- ✗ Stickers
- ✗ Wet or dirty paper (tissues, paper towel, food wrappings, paper with spills)
- ✗ Self-adhesive paper (post-it notes)





- ✗ Chemically treated fax or photographic paper
- ✗ Dog food bags, potato bags

Glass & Crockery

Recycling a glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hours! For every ton of glass recycled, 1.2 tons of raw materials and 114l of oil energy are saved. Remember to remove bottle tops and corks from bottles.

Recycle:

- ✓ Beverage bottles
- ✓ Food jars such as tomato sauce, jam and mayonnaise bottles.

Do NOT recycle:

- ✗ Drinking glasses
- ✗ Light bulbs. Ordinary and energy saving compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) Take these to the drop-off points at Pick 'n Pay stores where they will be disposed of safely. Bulbs contain mercury and can disperse into soil and groundwater. Pick 'n Pay at Stellenbosch Square accepts bulbs. They also accept fluorescent tubes, as long as these are not left with them in bulk.
- ✗ Pyrex
- ✗ Ceramics (plates)

E-Waste:

These are appliances such as TV's, computers, cell phones and household appliances. Recycling e-waste is particularly difficult as it contains different materials and extremely dangerous hazardous substances. If these items are incorrectly disposed, it could result in dangerous chemicals entering our environment through soil and air. ⁵ The eWaste Association of South Africa (eWASA) is a non-profit organisation has the purpose of

⁵ eWaste recycling in South Africa blog.engineersimplicity.com





managing the establishment of a sustainable environmentally sound e-waste management system for South Africa.⁶

Their website provides collection sites for ewaste and can be found at www.ewasa.org/recycling/western_cape/collection_sites.html.

The closest collection site to de Zalze is in Paarl:

eCycle Electronics Recycling (PTY)Ltd
Oosterland Industrial Park no 1
Unit no 10
Oosterland Str
Paarl/Dal Josafat
Tel: 086 144 4942
Email: laurentius@ecycle.co.za
www.ecycle.co.za

eCycle Electronics Recycling will collect ewaste from de Zalze free of charge, should the volume justify it, or if they are in the Stellenbosch area. Residents can contact them to make arrangements.

Batteries:

It is important to remember that disposable batteries are not recyclable and should not be thrown away with household waste, as they contain toxic chemicals that can leach into soil and groundwater. The Pick & Pay at Stellenbosch Square currently offers a service where batteries can be disposed of safely. Simply leave them at the boxes provided at the entrance.

Rechargeable batteries can be recycled and last a lot longer than ordinary batteries.

⁶ www.ewasa.org





Ink Cartridges:

These can be disposed of at Pick 'n Pay Stellenbosch Square. Please remember that some cartridges can be refilled for reuse. The Laser Group in Mill Str, Stellenbosch (across from Mugg & Bean) provides this service for certain makes of cartridges.

Other items – high care or responsible disposal

Other items to be disposed of in a responsible manner ie 'high care items' include: medical waste, battery, pool or car acid, drain cleaners, cleaners containing ammonia or bleach, thinners and nail polish, used motor oil, paraffin and pesticides.

