

2022 Household Municipal Waste Characterisation

SEPTEMBER 2023



THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME
The Driving Force for Ireland's Move to a Circular Economy

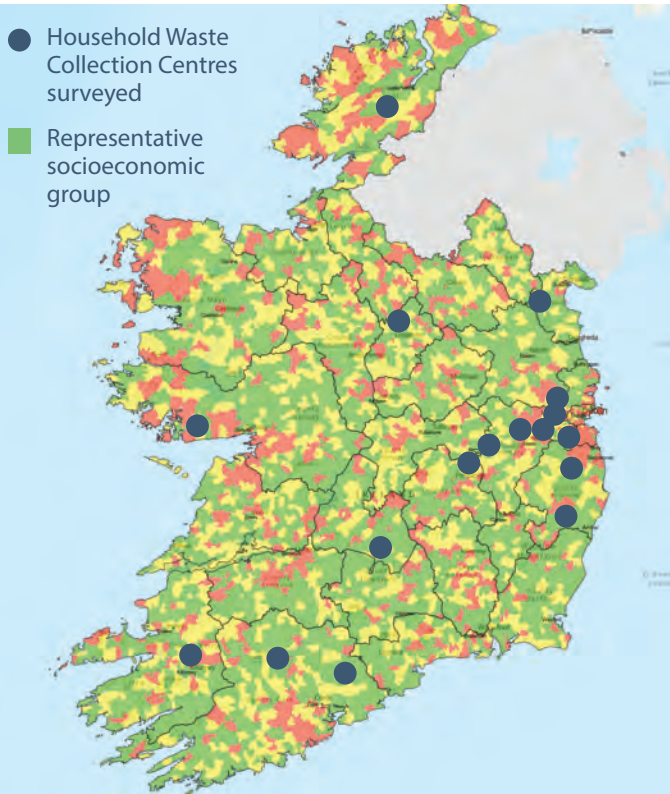


Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

How the Household Waste Data was collected



The EPA studies the type of waste placed in household, business and school bins every four years. Household and commercial bins are collected from around the country and are sorted, by hand, into the different types of waste (e.g., food, plastic, paper). The results of the 2022 Household Municipal Waste Characterisation are summarised in this booklet. Further detailed information on the municipal waste characterisation is available on the EPA Waste Statistics webpage.



The waste samples were sourced from 12 companies at 17 waste collection centres nationwide.

The samples were from areas representative of the average socioeconomic group (CSO, 2016).



5250
HOURS ONSITE
CHARACTERISING WASTE

150,000

HOUSEHOLDS ON THE
COLLECTION ROUTES
SAMPLED

250 GRAB SAMPLES WERE MIXED AND
DIVIDED DOWN TO 50 SAMPLES

50

WASTE SAMPLES
ASSESSED
from residual, recycling and
organic bins

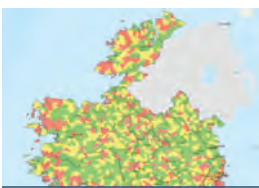


EACH WASTE SAMPLE WAS 100KG



5

A TOTAL OF 5 TONNES OF
WASTE WAS HAND SORTED
INTO 81 WASTE CATEGORIES



Five target routes identified per sample, representative of waste & collection types & demographics.



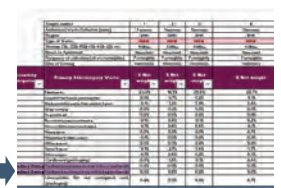
A 400 kg grab sample taken from each collection route was stored.



The grab samples were mixed and divided into a representative 100 kg sample.



Each 100kg sample was sorted into 81 categories, with each weight recorded to data sheets.

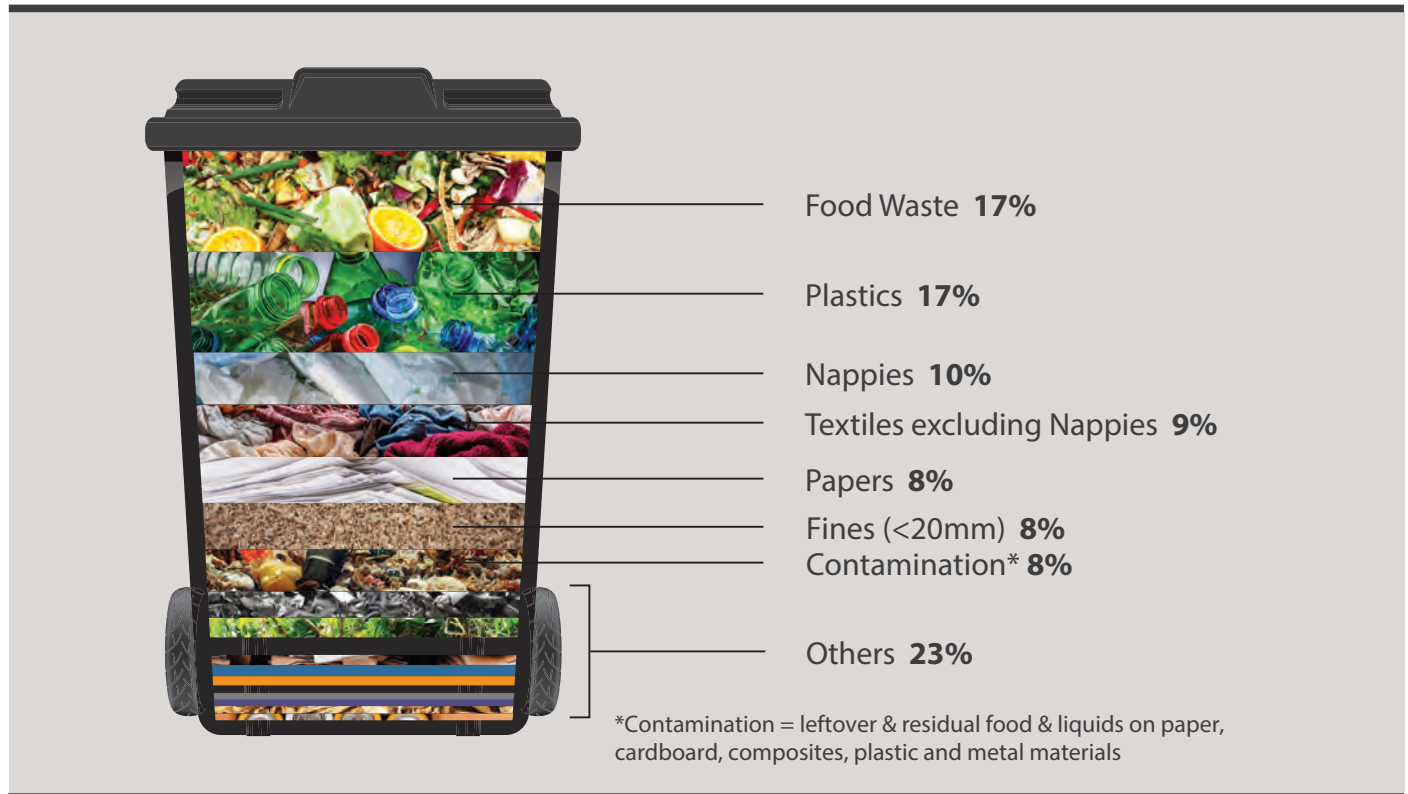


All data was inputted into waste characterisation database.

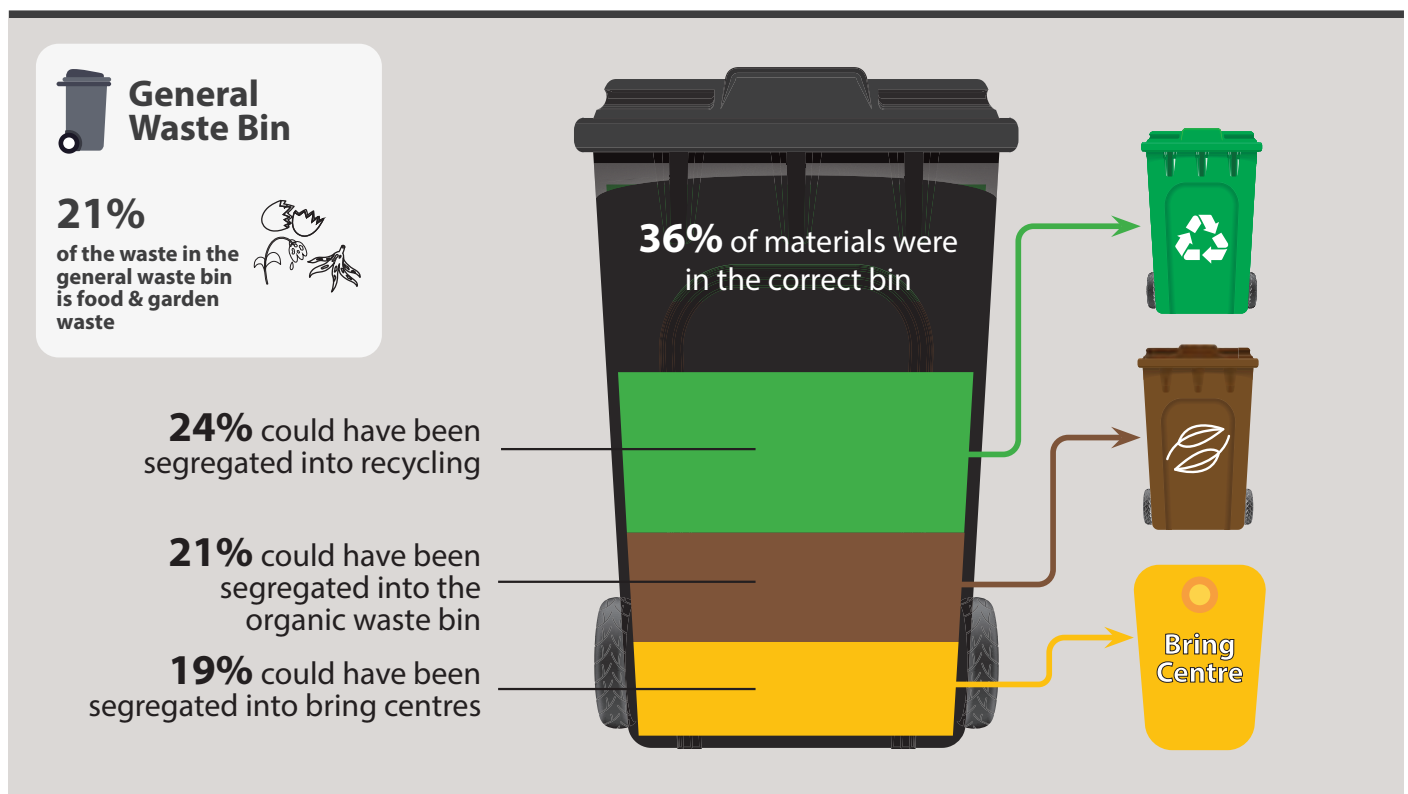
2022 Household Municipal Waste Characterisation



What is in Ireland's General Waste Bin?

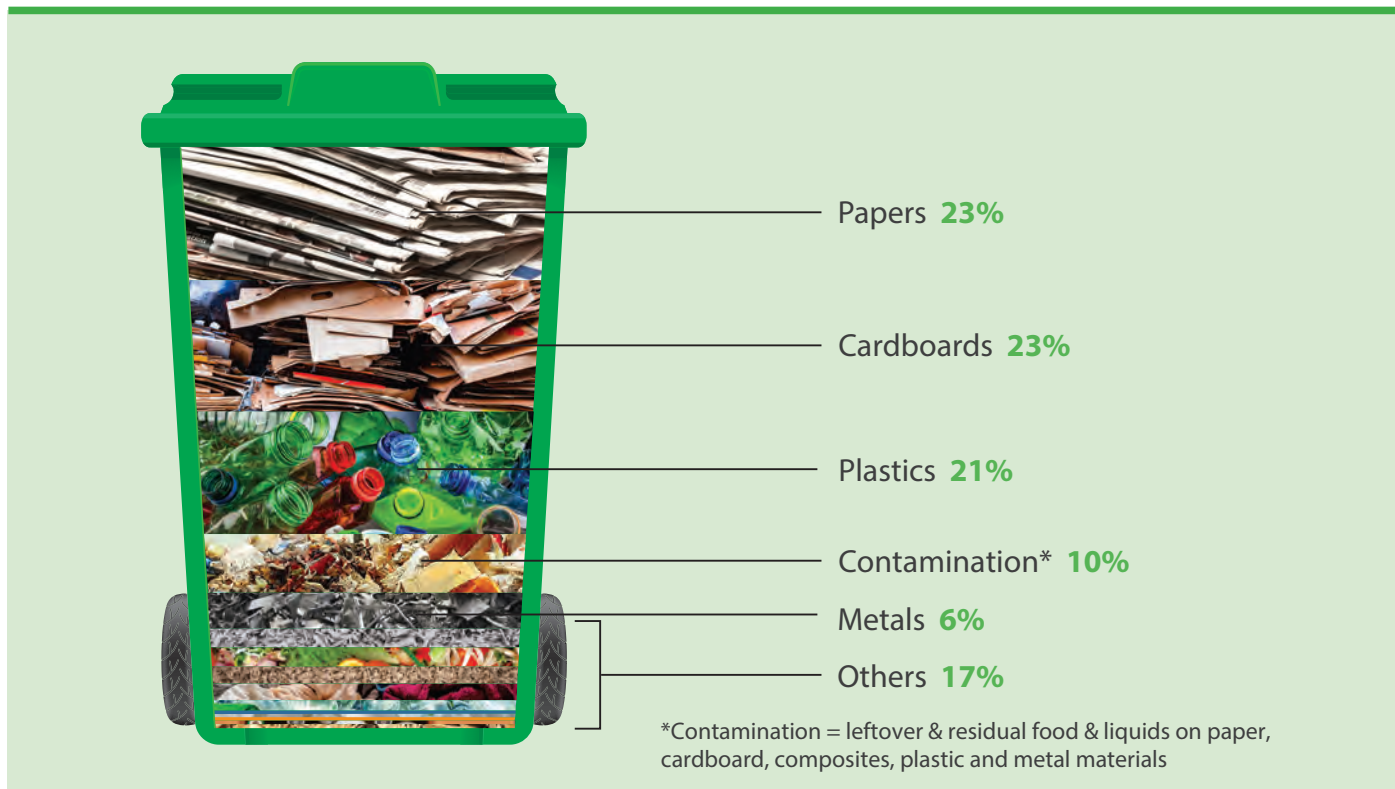


What should not be in the General Waste Bin

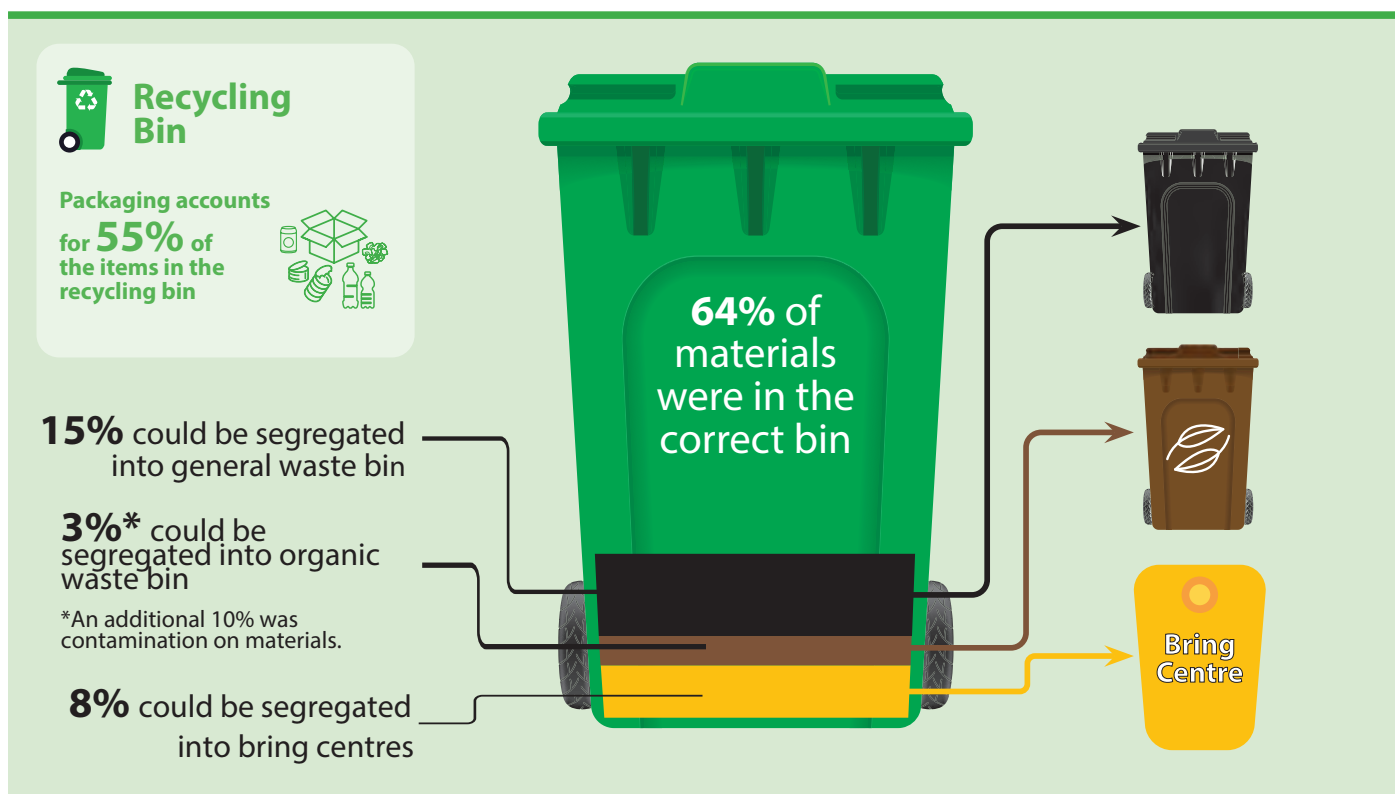


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What is in Ireland's Recycling Bin?

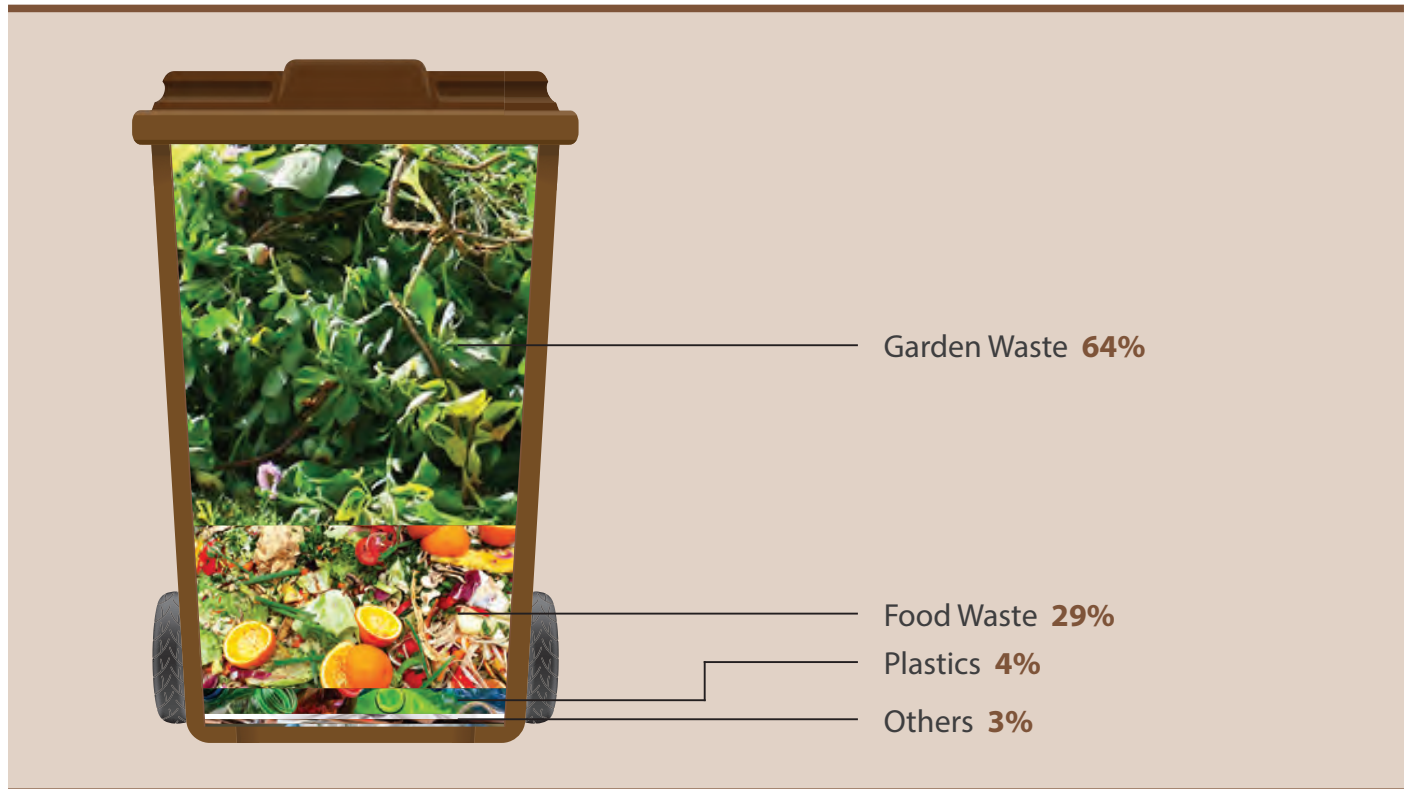


What should not be in the Recycling Bin

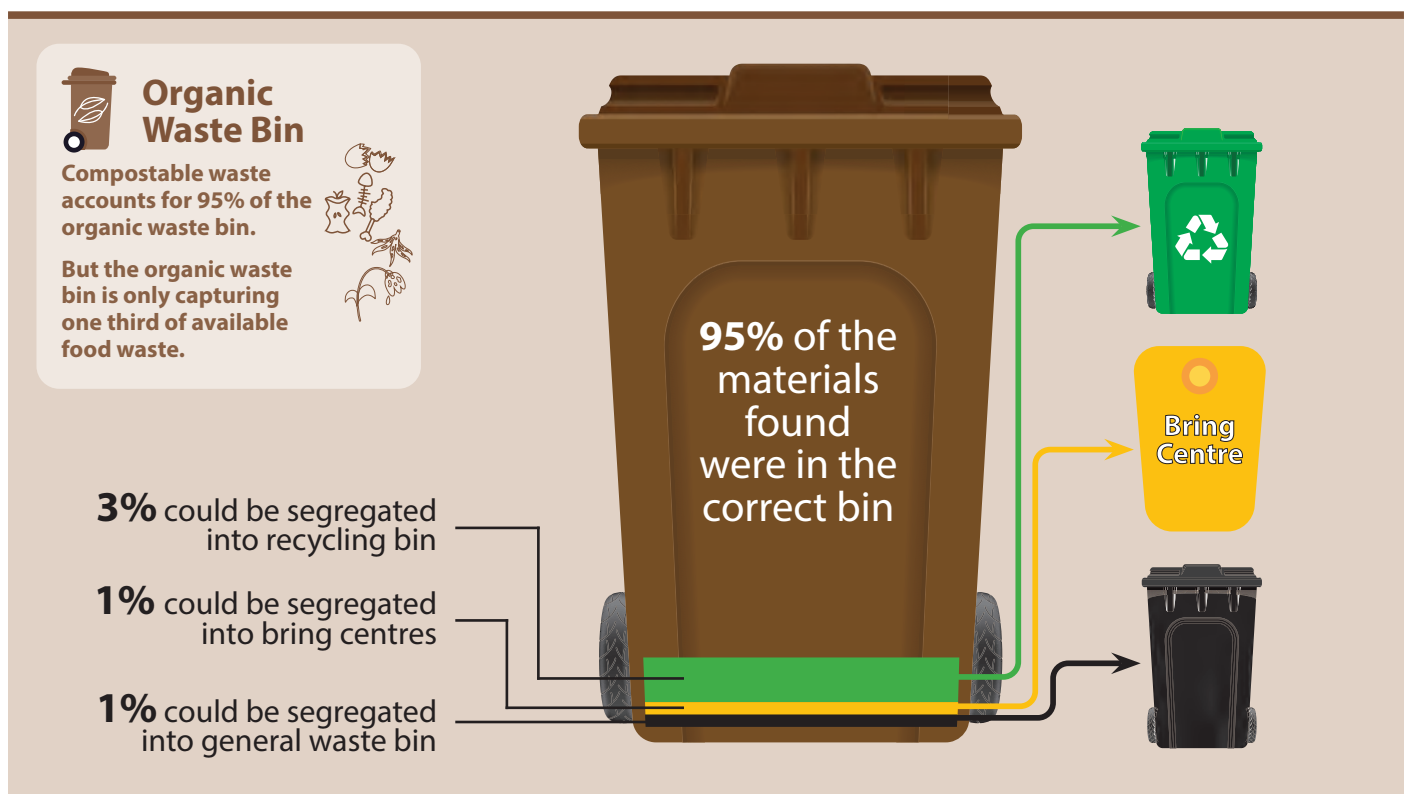


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What is in Ireland's Organic Waste Bin?



What should not be in the Organic Waste Bin

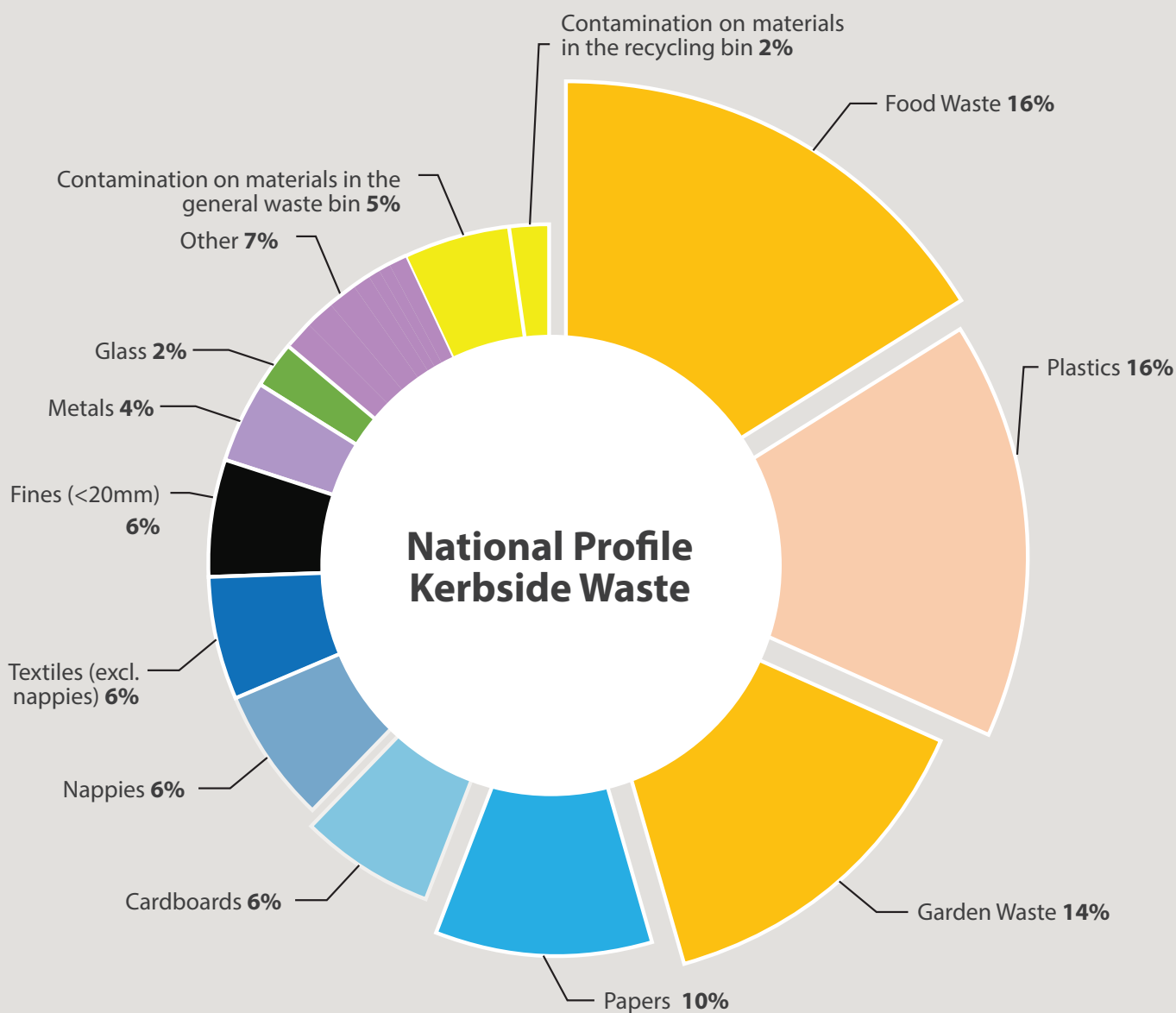


2022 Household Municipal Waste Characterisation



National Profile for Kerbside Collected Household Waste

The national profile for kerbside collected household waste* is illustrated in this figure.



* 2022 waste composition results were applied to the total household kerbside waste collected in 2021 (the most recent NWCPO data available).

2022 Household Municipal Waste Characterisation



Overall Segregation - What is in the wrong household bin?

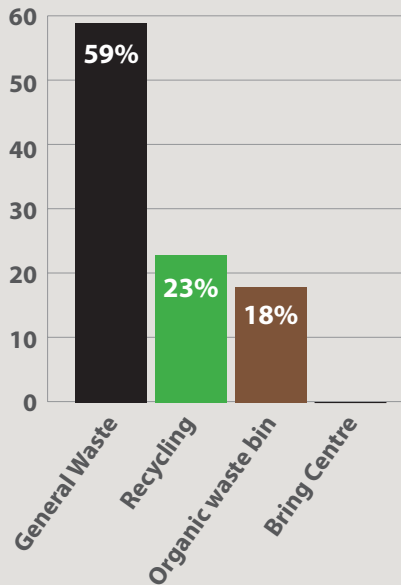


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Household Waste Segregation

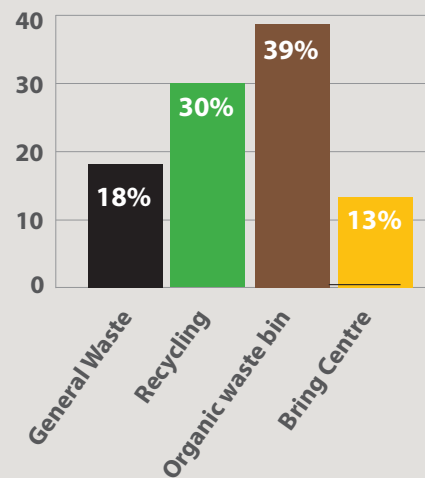
Where is it going?

Actual (2022) segregation of household kerbside waste



Where should it go?

If household kerbside waste were segregated optimally



What should not be in kerbside bins?

USE BRING CENTRES

Take these materials to bring centres to ensure your waste gets managed properly.



'Bring centres' includes Civic Amenity Sites, Recycling Centres, Bring Banks, & WEEE recycling points



WEEE and Batteries 1%

Household appliances, electronic toys, chargers and other electronic products and batteries.



Hazardous Waste 1%

Aerosols, garden chemicals, and detergents.



Textiles 6%

Clothes, footwear and other textile products.



Glass 2%

Jars, bottles and drinking glasses.

Household waste changes since 2018

Overall there have been minor changes in the composition of Ireland's kerbside household waste since 2018. These changes include:



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What the waste industry needs to do?

Householders need more support from industry to make waste segregation easier.



Provide organic waste bins to all households to make food waste segregation easier.



Targeted awareness campaigns to educate and motivate householders waste to segregate food waste.



Improved and more transparent waste collection charging to incentivise and reward waste segregation and reduction.

What government needs to do?



Enforcement of the provision of organic waste bins to all houses and apartments.

Improved recycling infrastructure to make it easier for householders to use bring centres.

What householders need to do?



Put food and garden waste into organic waste bins or home compost.



Put clean, loose & dry recyclables into the recycling bin.




Bring bulky waste, glass, textiles, batteries & electronics, and hazardous waste to bring centres.

Looking for more information on how to recycle?

Visit: www.mywaste.ie

Ireland's guide to waste
mywaste

To learn more about what you can do to reduce foodwaste, visit:

STOP FoodWaste.ie 

To find a local professional that can repair your stuff, go to:

REPAIR
MYSTUFF.ie