

# WHAT TO DO WITH FARM WASTES

	Management options	General information	Contacts
 Scrap metal/used wire	Reuse or recycle	Wastes such as fencing wire, vehicle bodies and corrugated iron can be reused on the farm or recycled. Some companies offer free collection and may pay for scrap metal.	Contact regional waste and resource recovery groups (WRRG) for details of a metal recycler in your area, or contact your local council. Find details of your local waste and recycling centre at <a href="http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government/Waste-and-resource-recovery/Council-waste-and-recycling-centres">www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government/Waste-and-resource-recovery/Council-waste-and-recycling-centres</a>
 Masonry: concrete, bricks, tiles etc	Reuse or recycle	Concrete and bricks free of contaminants can be reused on your farm where they are engineered and fit for purpose. Crushed contaminant-free materials can be used to construct farm tracks and pads. The filling of low-lying areas in or near waterways or gullies with masonry waste is not appropriate and you could face liability for illegal dumping.	Recycling facilities for masonry wastes are available through most of Victoria. Contact your council for further information
 Asbestos	Dispose	Asbestos poses a risk to health when asbestos fibres are inhaled. Asbestos products such as sheet, roofing pipes or lagging should not be reused and cannot be recycled. Asbestos must be disposed of safely to a licensed landfill. Asbestos removal should be undertaken by a professional removalist with a WorkSafe licence.	Contact local council for details of landfills that accept asbestos, or visit <a href="http://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au">www.asbestos.vic.gov.au</a> to find licensed removalists. Contractors are also available to remove asbestos. EPA publication IWRG611, Asbestos transport and disposal, provides more information on how to handle asbestos disposal appropriately. Landfills licensed to receive asbestos waste are found through EPA's portal <a href="https://portal.epa.vic.gov.au/irj/portal">https://portal.epa.vic.gov.au/irj/portal</a>
 Empty chemical drums/used containers	Returnable: Reuse  Non-returnable 1. drumMUSTER containers: recycle 2. Non-drumMUSTER containers: recycle or dispose	All empty chemical containers should be triple rinsed where the wash-water can be reused for a spray mix directly after use. See the drumMUSTER website for details about a suitable rinse and disposing the rinsate. Returnable containers: Should be returned to the retailer for reuse in repackaging the original product. Non-returnable: Two options are available: 1. drumMUSTER containers - check to see if the container is eligible for the drumMUSTER program (a national collection and recycling program). Eligible containers are identified by a drumMUSTER logo (as a sticker label or embossed). 2. Non-drumMUSTER containers - after triple rinsing, puncture the base of the container and recycle or dispose to landfill. NOTE: Rigid containers larger than 200 litres must be reused or recycled, they cannot be sent to landfill. See <a href="http://www.drummuster.org.au/container-recycling/the-abcs-for-your-ibcs">www.drummuster.org.au/container-recycling/the-abcs-for-your-ibcs</a> for more details on how to recycle your IBCs.	Returnable Contact your product supplier for details. Non-returnable DrumMUSTER: for dates and venues contact your local council, visit the website, <a href="http://www.drummuster.com.au">www.drummuster.com.au</a> or phone: (02) 6206 6868. Contact local council for details of landfill and transfer station locations.
 Chemicals: unwanted or excess	Dispose through Chemclear	Chemclear is a program to collect unwanted rural chemicals. Store chemicals appropriately and register your products with the program, as collections are based on removal needs in an area. Coordinate with neighbours or local groups to register at the same time to ensure a collection occurs in your local area.	Register unwanted chemical products on the Chemclear website, <a href="http://www.chemclear.com.au">www.chemclear.com.au</a> or phone: 1800 008 182.
 Oil/used oil filters	Reuse or recycle Must not be disposed of on the farm	Two options are available for waste oil: 1. Waste collection contractors - collect waste oils from your farm (minimum volumes may apply). 2. Drop off at transfer station equipped with oil collection facilities. To recycle used oil filters, drain the filters, then segregate them by type and size. They can then be collected by an approved EPA transporter. Filters must be free of oil to be disposed to landfill.	Look online for waste oil contractors. Contact local council for details of landfills and transfer stations that accept waste oil. See Oil filters - Classification for reuse (EPA publication IWRG423) for more information about recycling oil filters.
 Tyres	Reuse/recycle/dispose Must not be burnt or buried	Tyres may be used on farm for certain purposes such as silage pit covering. Tyres may not be used in bulking material, earthen mounds, erosion control, as tree guards, to assist burning, or in building drains. Waste tyres may be taken to a licensed landfill for recycling or disposal. An EPA works approval and licence is required to store more than 40 tonnes or 5,000 EPUs of waste tyres. See EPA publication 1652, Using waste tyres on farms and other private property, on how to use or store waste tyres.	If tyres cannot be used on your farm contact your local waste and resource recovery group for an appropriate recycling or disposal location, or contact your local council. EPA publication 1652 Using waste tyres on farms and other private property contains more information about using waste tyres. Contact the Australian Tyre Recyclers Association (ATRA) for accredited tyre recycling services, <a href="http://atra.org.au">atra.org.au</a>
 Dead stock	Reuse (knackery/render) or dispose Stock should not be burnt	Where practical send to a knackery or rendering plant for reuse or to an appropriate landfill for disposal. If not practical, limited numbers of stock can be buried on farm. Burial sites must not cause adverse impacts on land, surface waters, groundwater or air (odours). Burning of dead stock should be avoided unless specified for disease control (approval is needed from vets, EPA and your local council) or in situations where a burial site is not available. The dead stock from intensive animal industries such as piggeries, feedlots and broiler or egg farms must not be buried on a farm without EPA approval. Composting must be designed and managed to avoid adverse environmental impacts.	Best management practices are available for disposal of dead stock. Contact your industry association or Agriculture Victoria for further information. Councils may also have information or local laws on dead stock. Planning permits often specify disposal options applicable to your area. Agriculture Victoria provides a guide to disposing of dead stock after bushfires in Agnote AG1264 on their website <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au</a>
 Silage/feed wrap	Recycle Must not be burnt	Recycling programs operate throughout Victoria. Silage wrap must be free of soil and other foreign material, including silage/hay. Do not burn silage/hay wrap as it produces toxic air pollution and residues may run off polluting water.	Contact your local waste and resource recovery group for details of your nearest recycling program or contact your local council.
 Hay band/twine	Reuse, recycle or dispose Must not be burnt	Can be recycled in some areas. If this is not offered in your region, reuse on the farm or dispose at the local transfer station or landfill. Do not burn hay band/twine as it produces toxic air pollution and residues may run off polluting water.	Contact local council for details of landfill and transfer station locations.
 Treated timber (CCA)	Reuse or dispose Must not be burnt	Where practical, treated timber (CCA, creosote hardwoods) should be stored safely and reused on farm (in a non-sensitive area). If not needed, treated timber should be disposed of at a transfer station or landfill. It must not be burned, as its smoke and ash can have adverse impacts on human and stock health, soils and water.	Contact local council for details of landfill and transfer station locations.
 Tree branches	Reuse or compost	Burning of tree branches is acceptable when it cannot be used for home heating or mulch. Avoid creating large piles of wood which can pose a fire risk. When burning, consider fire restrictions, wind direction, proximity to waterways, gullies etc. If composting, consider chipping the wood to speed up the process. Do not compost diseased wood, as it may disrupt pathogens in the composting process.	Council may have local laws for burning waste. Contact them for details. EPA publication IWRG641, Farm waste management, outlines how to manage risks from burning. Check Fire restrictions: contact your local CFA for details.
 Recyclables	Recycle	Different local government areas collect a variety of materials for recycling, depending on facilities available.	Check with local council on what can be recycled, recycling depots, local recycling contractor or community recycling facility. Go to <a href="http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au">www.recyclingnearyou.com.au</a> .
 Household waste	Compost or dispose Must not be burnt	Kitchen scraps can be composted. Sustainability Victoria's free 'Detox Your Home' household collection service accepts a range of domestic materials, including gas cylinders, batteries and fluorescent tubes, plus chemicals such as acids and oil paints. Other wastes should be disposed of by a waste management contractor or at the local landfill or transfer station.	Go to Sustainability Victoria's website, <a href="http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au">www.sustainability.vic.gov.au</a> , for information on the 'Detox Your Home' service. Contact council for details of services provided in your area.
 Waste not generated on the farm	Not appropriate	If you accept waste from other sources for the purpose of disposal or where materials not considered fit for purpose are reused (such as industrial waste), you may face liability for illegal dumping, contamination, pollution or clean-up.	

## Key contacts

**Agriculture Victoria:** [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au)  
**EPA Victoria:** [www.epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines/agricultural-guidance](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines/agricultural-guidance)  
**Sustainability Victoria:** [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government/Waste-and-resource-recovery](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government/Waste-and-resource-recovery)

## Recycling options for your local council:

[www.recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au)  
**Information on recycling and disposal services:**  
**Sustainability Victoria:** 1300 363 744, [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au) or at Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)