



Cardboard and Polystyrene



Cardboard is made from thick paper.



Polystyrene is a type of plastic derived from styrofoam or expanded polystyrene. Polystyrene items can be found in coat hangers, DVD cases, disposable cups and protective packaging.



Why we should recycle:

- Cardboard breaks down and creates methane when sent to landfill, a greenhouse gas 21 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.
- Few polystyrene products can be recycled, and the production of these products consume large amounts of energy and non-renewable fossil fuels.



How recycling helps

- Making cardboard products from recycled materials can use 99% less water, and 50% less energy.
- Every kilogram of cardboard recycled saves a kilogram of emitted greenhouse gas.



What you can do

- Buy items with less packaging, and ask suppliers to use less or take back their packaging.
- Reuse packaging material where possible.
- Designate an area in your office to store boxes and polystyrene prior to disposal.
- Flatten cardboard items before recycling for easy disposal. All types of cardboard, except waxed boxes and cartons, can be recycled in the designated bins near your building.
- To recycle polystyrene items at UQ:
email recycle@pf.uq.edu.au to make a request. Please store this material until you have a quantity of it.

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