

# SCRAP METAL

What is it? What issues does it present?  
How do I recycle it properly?

## What is Scrap Metal?

Scrap metal refers to any metallic material that is discarded from product manufacturing or consumption, that is capable of being recycled.

### There are two types of Scrap Metal

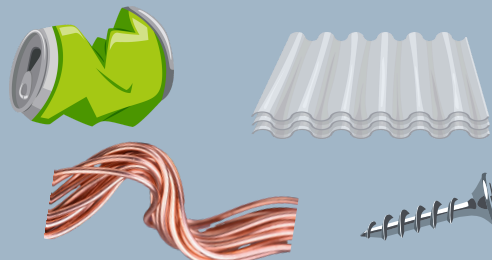
#### Ferrous

- Contains iron
- e.g. steel and steel alloys



#### Non - Ferrous

- Does not contain iron
- e.g. aluminium, copper, zinc, lead and stainless steel



## Why is Scrap Metal a concern?

Improper disposal of scrap metal may cause toxic chemicals such as lead, mercury and cadmium to leach into soil and groundwater, leading to contaminated food and water. This can pose various health risks such as neurotoxicity, damage to the reproductive system, and can lead to liver failure. In the environment these substances can have negative effects on the health of flora and fauna and can persist in an ecosystem for significant time.



## What are the potential scrap metals in your household?

#### Metal furniture

(bed frames, ironing boards, shelves, tables, chairs)

#### Appliances

(old washing machines, refrigerators, irons, dryers, ovens)

#### Cookware and utensils

(damaged pots and pans, old cutlery)

**Common household items suitable for scrap metal recycling**

#### Home renovation materials & tools

(nails, screws, hammer, wrenches, screwdrivers)

#### Decorative ornaments

(brass vases, planters, figurines, picture frames)

#### Outdoor equipment

(old gym equipment and bicycles)



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## Benefits of Recycling Scrap Metal



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**75% of Aluminium produced in commercial manufacturing in the 1880's is still in use as a secondary raw material?**

- Consumes less energy than the processes required to extract and refine raw materials.
- Extends the longevity of finite resources by reducing the demand for primary metal production.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with mining, refining and production of raw materials, thereby mitigating against the impacts of climate change.
- Stimulates economic growth by creating employment opportunities.
- Provides the opportunity to generate income through disposal.

## General Storage Considerations

**Proper storage is vital to ensure recycling can be properly facilitated on an item. For example, electronic equipment waste may not be recyclable if it has been exposed to water damage.**

**Here is what you can do to ensure your scrap metal retains its recycling value:**



- Ferrous scrap metal should be stored in a dry, sheltered area to prevent rusting and preserve its value.
- Avoid open storage on lawns due to the potential for toxic leachate to pollute groundwater. Storage on impervious surfaces is advised.
- Scrap metal should be stored securely to prevent theft and potential injury to children and animals.
- Used Alkaline, Nickel-Cadmium, Lithium-ion, and Button cell batteries should be stored separate from other recyclable metals. Keep in an upright plastic container or Ziplock bag with the ends taped to prevent short-circuiting and fires. Store used lead acid batteries (ULABS) separately and upright, but cracked/damaged ULABS may be transported in sealed acid-proof containers or polyethylene plastic bags.

## Where should you dispose of your scrap metal?

**Scrap metals should not be sent to the landfill but rather, be disposed at a licensed Scrap Metal Collecting/ Recycling Facility in your country.**



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