

3R Tips: Cardboard and Other Packaging

Products often have unnecessary packaging that can be avoided, or alternative products sourced. You may need to look at your own product and identify ways the packaging can be improved to minimise materials used and increase its ability to be recycled after purchase.

Reduce

- Rethink options to prevent excess packaging coming into your workplace.
- Use packaging made from materials that can be reused or be recycled.
- Purchase in bulk to reduce packaging.

Reuse

- Use materials already on hand for loose-fill packaging material, rather than buying new. One popular, low-cost option is shredded office paper.
- Give away materials you cannot reuse yourselves.
- Set up a system for returning cardboard boxes and foam peanuts to distributors for reuse.
- Use reusable boxes and mailbags for shipping to branch offices, shops, and warehouses.
- Ship products to your customers in the boxes that you receive from your suppliers. Set up a place to store these reusable boxes.
- Ask customers to return boxes for reuse.
- Encourage suppliers to use reusable boxes, rather than sending you disposable boxes that you have to break down and recycle.
- Return, reuse and repair wooden pallets and spools.

Recycle

- Set up labelled collection and storage stations for cardboard in-house.
- Use dedicated cages or bins adjacent to the waste skips or bins dedicated for cardboard recycling.
- Organise a regular collection by a recycling contractor.
- Print a message on products and packaging to encourage consumers to recycle the packaging.