

# Cook islands battery recycling

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Infrastructure Cook Islands manages the Rarotonga Waste Facility. The facility has an engineered landfill, septage treatment ponds and disposal fields and a recycling centre where recyclables are baled and packed for shipping overseas.

The facility accepts general mixed household waste (non-toxic), recyclable plastics, aluminium cans, tin food cans, and glass from homes and businesses on Rarotonga mainly via the roadside collection but some businesses regularly deliver their waste and recyclables. We also accept whiteware, e-waste, organic waste and hazardous waste. See our waste fees below.

The facility does not have the facilities to receive gaseous and chemical waste at this time, apart from those listed above, however we are working to be able to accept all kinds of waste and a refund system to incentivise sorting and return. Read more about where we are headed here.

Toxic waste is chemical waste material capable of causing death or injury to life. Waste is considered toxic if it is poisonous, radioactive, explosive, carcinogenic (causing cancer), mutagenic (causing damage to chromosomes), teratogenic (causing birth defects), or bioaccumulative (that is, increasing in concentration at the higher ends of food chains). Poisoning occurs when toxic waste is ingested, inhaled, or absorbed by the skin.

Hazardous wastes are wastes or products that have the potential to harm humans or the environment, either now or in the future. There are many options to help you dispose of household hazardous wastes safely, protect the environment and keep your home safe. Over the last two decades, there have been major changes to the way Cook Islanders manage their waste. Recycling has increased but so has the amount of waste we are generating, including the quantity of hazardous waste.

Always store hazardous wastes properly while waiting for a suitable disposal method. There are various ways to recycle and dispose of household hazardous waste. Here are a few ways or options:

Please call the Building Inspection Division on +682 20321 from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Inspections called in or emailed by 4pm will be scheduled for the next business day, excluding holidays.

The average processing time for a residential building permit is approximately 5 to 7 business day, excluding holidays. Most commercial building permit applications with a General Contractor identified on the application are processed in approximately 15 business days, excluding holidays. Processing time will be longer if submitted applications are incomplete or if more information and/or additional plans are requested by our office.

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Infrastructure Cook Islands is working towards introducing an advance recovery and disposal fee scheme (ARDF) which places the cost of recycling and disposal on the cost of a product. A portion will be refunded to consumers upon return of recyclable and hazardous products.

- Lightweight plastic bags including shopping bags- Plastic straws and cocktail stirrers- Plastic cutlery- Plastic containers with no PET number or with numbers 3, 4, 5, and 7, including plastic plates and sealable food containers- Plastic and polystyrene cups, including plastic-lined coffee cups- Polystyrene containers and meat trays- Single-portion breakfast spreads- Products containing microbeads

Over time, more products can be added to the schedule as alternatives become available or the country decides that it is too difficult to manage the end of life product. Read the policy [here](#).

The scheme will enable us to afford to have hazardous waste and recyclables sent back to Rarotonga from the Pa Enua for processing with the Rarotonga stock. The materials and products can then be sent to safe handling and recycling facilities overseas.

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