

An annual summer recycling bin survey was carried out for the residential kerbside recycling bins across New Plymouth district.

Purpose: identify changes in household recycling and levels of contamination.

What is contamination? Contamination is anything in your bin that is considered non-recyclable

The most common non-recyclable items identified:



Mixed material products
(e.g. soy milk cartons, potato chip canisters or toy packaging)

Why: The different layers of materials in the packaging make it hard to separate.



Bottles with lids
(e.g. milk bottle, soft drink)

Why: Lids hold liquids in bottles and small lids jam sorting machinery.



Plastic 3, 4, 6 & 7
(e.g. squeezable sauces, dips or pasta packaging)

Why: These are low value plastics harder to recycle into new products.



Dirty recycling
(e.g. unrinse containers, tins or bottles)

Why: Recycling companies require material to be clean.



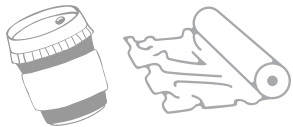
A total of **283 recycling bins** were audited in the survey.



The sample size of 283 ensured an accurate representation of the population with a 95% level of confidence and 6% margin of error.

What's improved?

There has been a decrease in the amount of soft plastic and takeaway coffee cups found in the kerbside recycling bins.



% of households with soft plastics

51.9%
2018
⋮
31.4%
2019
⋮
9.2%
2020

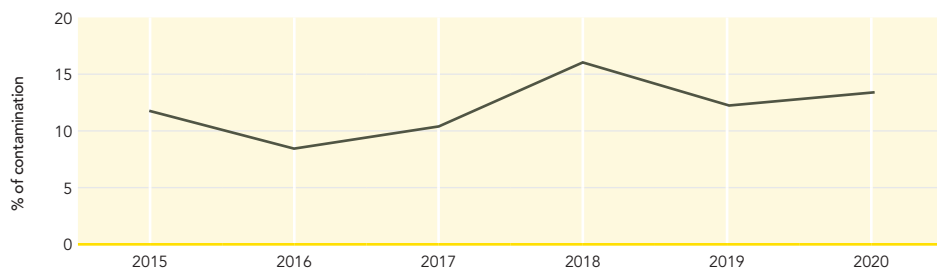


Residents are doing the right thing by either avoiding these items or placing them in the red landfill bin

% of households with coffee cups

6.9%
2018
⋮
9.2%
2019
⋮
4.6%
2020

Average Contamination Rate 2015-2020



Surveyed kerbside recycling bins comprised of:

- 33% Cardboard
- 27% Paper
- 18% Plastic 1, 2 & 5
- 6% Tin
- 3% Aluminium
- 13% Non-recyclables

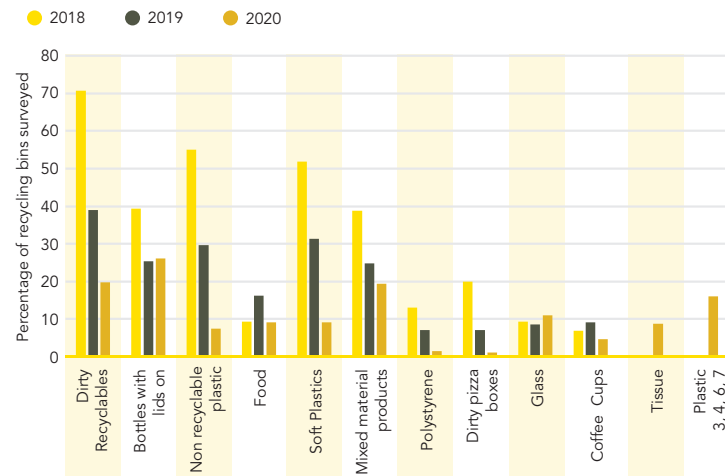


The amount of non-recyclables found in the recycling bin was higher compared to previous years and indicates an increasing trend.

Removing non-recyclables is costly and takes time to remove. Contaminated recycling is sent to the landfill.



Common contaminants 2018-2020



Oakura and Lepperton had the lowest rate of non-recyclables in their recycling bins while **Marfell and Fitzroy** has the highest.

Five suburbs with the best recycling	Five suburbs with the worst recycling
1. Oakura	1. Marfell
2. Lepperton	2. Fitzroy
3. Highlands Park	3. Bell Block East
4. Merrilands	4. Strandon
5. Whalers Gate	5. Hurdon