

Fact Sheet: Disposing of Nappies and other Sanitary Items

Richmond Valley Council is upgrading its waste collection service from 13 June 2016. This will mean changes to the frequency of the red bin collection and putting all food waste into the new weekly organics collection.

Our aim is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to recover more resources through our recycling stream.

There are some products which cannot be recycled and must continue to be placed in your red bin. Single use, disposable nappies, feminine hygiene products and incontinence products cannot be recycled, nor can they be composted. They belong in your red bin. This information is designed to assist and advise people with disposal of these items in the fortnightly mixed waste red bin.



Advice on how to dispose:

- Dispose as much faeces as possible in the toilet.
- Wrap the nappy into itself using the tabs.
- Seal nappies, sanitary items and incontinence products in plastic bags before placing in red garbage bin. Scented nappy disposal bags are available from supermarkets and chemists. Newspaper may also be used as a second layer.
- Store your red garbage bin in the shade.



Consider other options:

- There are now many modern nappy systems available that use either cloth or compostable inserts with a fitted cloth outer. Search fitted cloth nappy system on the internet for stockists.
- Nappy disposal units may be a solution for anyone using a lot of nappies eg: family day carers. Search nappy disposal units on the internet.
- To control odours in your bin, you may like to try the vm purefier odour control pads. Visit www.vm3purefier.com for more information.



Facts (from a Community Nappy trail carried out by Lake Macquarie City Council in 2014)

- A 240L bin holds about 300 soiled nappies.
- The average household with one person in nappies generates about 30 soiled nappies per week (60 per fortnight). The average with two people in nappies generates just over 50 per week (100 per fortnight), and the average household with three people in nappies generates about 70 per week (140 per fortnight). However, in reality the number of soiled nappies put in the household bin will vary depending on the proportion of time the user spends at home and/or in care.
- The average odour rating does not vary greatly from a weekly red bin collection to a fortnightly red bin collection containing nappies.

*For further information on Richmond Valley Council's waste services, visit
www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au*