**Hazardous waste information**

The materials listed below do more environmental harm than other wastes when landfilled. Find some alternative recycling options for these below:.

You can also visit the [Waste and Recycling Directory](https://www.boprc.govt.nz/living-in-the-bay/waste-and-recycling-directory)

**Asbestos**

Asbestos is not accepted at the Western Bay of Plenty District Council’s recycle centres or Tauranga City Council’s Transfer Stations. Please refer to the Yellow Pages under Asbestos.

For Health and Safety requirements contact [WorkSafe New Zealand](https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/). If you have discovered asbestos in your own property, the [Ministry of Health](https://environment.govt.nz/publications/waste/waste/) website has some information to help keep you safe.

**Batteries**

To find out more about different battery types and their recycling options see the [Ministry for the Environment website](https://environment.govt.nz/publications/waste/waste/).

Car batteries can be dropped off free of charge at the recycle centres at Athenree, Katikati and Te Puke.

Household quantities of lithium or alkaline batteries can be dropped off free of charge at the recycle centres at Athenree, Katikati and Te Puke.

Cell phone batteries can be taken to any mobile phone retail outlet, or you can send them free of charge.

Hearing aid batteries can be taken to the Tauranga Hearing Association, Tauranga.

**Electronic waste**

Electronic waste contains reusable resources and potentially harmful materials.

Computer monitors, hard drives and associated accessories (mice, keyboards etc) can be recycled.

Contact [Computer Recyclers NZ](https://www.computerrecyclers.co.nz/services.htm).

Televisions can be recycled for a fee or treated as general waste at the Tauranga City Council Transfer Station at Te Maunga.

More information on [electronic waste](https://environment.govt.nz/publications/waste/waste/)

**Fluorescent Tubes including Eco-Bulbs**

Fluorescent tubes and Eco-bulbs can be dropped off free of charge at the recycle centres at Athenree, Katikati and Te Puke.

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For large quantities of fluorescent tubes or Eco-bulbs, recycling boxes can be purchased through [Interwaste](https://www.interwaste.co.nz/). The cost covers the collection and recycling through Interwaste. You can contact Interwaste direct on 0800 102 131.

**Medical waste**

Medical waste is not accepted at the Recycle Centres or at Tauranga City’s Transfer Station. Businesses should contact one of the following contractors for appropriate disposal of medical waste:

[Interwaste](https://www.interwaste.co.nz/) (0800 102 131)

[Nitrogen X](https://www.nitrogenx.co.nz/) (0800 22 33 85)

[Waste Management](https://www.wastemanagement.co.nz/) (0800 888 278)

There is a New Zealand Needle Exchange programme for needles that have been used for drugs. Find a list of participating outlets in the region.

[New Zealand Needle Exchange programme](https://www.nznep.org.nz/).

**Paints - Oil and Water Based**

Resene Paint shop will accept Resene paints free and other brands at a cost for recycling of the tins and processing of the paint.

**Paints - Lead Based**

Lead based paint (in a can) can no longer be purchased. If you have old lead-based paints at home these can be disposed of as a hazardous waste at Athenree, Katikati or Te Puke recycle centres.

**Smoke Alarms**

Smoke alarms only present as hazardous waste in large quantities. For individual smoke alarms it is acceptable to put it out in your normal rubbish disposal. Every cubic metre of New Zealand soil, on average, contains naturally occurring radioactive material equivalent to about thirteen smoke detectors.

[National Radiation Laboratory website](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/ionising-radiation-safety)

**Solvents**

Contact [Waste Management](https://www.wastemanagement.co.nz/for-business/solvent-recovery/) for solvent recovery.

[Hazardous waste types](https://environment.govt.nz/publications/waste/waste/)