

## Why is mattress recycling important?

Mattresses are full of recyclable material such as steel, foam and wood. These are valuable commodities for the manufacturing of many other products, and recycling minimises the environmental impact of mining and extraction for steel, harvesting of forestry for wood, and the energy and resources used to manufacture foam. In addition to this, mattresses are difficult to compact, and can take up as much as  $1.2m^3$  of space in the landfill! Up to 1 million mattresses are sent to landfill in Australia each year, that's 1.2 million  $m^3$  of space that can be saved in landfills with mattress recycling.

Couches are more difficult to separate the components, and thus only couch cushions can be recycled within the Shire, and the rest of the couch is sent to landfill. As a result of this, residents are asked to consider donating your couch to someone who is in need, or if it is in good condition to your local charity shop.

## Where can I recycle my mattress and couch cushions?

You can drop your mattress at any Resource Recovery Centre in the Murrindindi Shire for a small fee:

- ✓ Alexandra
- ✓ Yea
- ✓ Kinglake
- ✓ Eildon
- ✓ Marysville



## What happens to mattresses/couches after I drop them off for recycling?

After being collected from the RRC, the mattress is transported to TIC Group in Bayswater. There it is processed and the recovered material is moved on for recycling. TIC recovers up to 85% of the material contained within the mattress.

Couch cushions can also be recycled in the same process to recover the foam, and these can be dropped off at the mattress recycling area of your local Resource Recovery Centre. Unfortunately the separation process for the recycling of couches is more complex, and as a result the remainder of the couch is sent to landfill.

## For more information/references:

<http://ticgroup.com.au/services/mattress-recycling>