

RECYCLING STORIES



The adventures of Polly the plastic bottle

Once upon a time in a bustling factory, **Polly the Plastic Bottle** was created from teeny tiny bits of plastic. She was shiny, new, and filled with the most refreshing water. When Polly was ready, she was sent with all her brothers and sisters to a supermarket where she waited patiently on a shelf, eager to see the big wide world.

One sunny day, a girl named Mia spotted Polly on her shelf and chose her for a family picnic. Polly was thrilled to be a part of Mia's adventure. At the picnic, Polly kept Mia hydrated as they played and enjoyed their day. When Polly was empty, she wondered what would happen next.

Instead of throwing Polly away, Mia's family knew just what to do. They collected all their empty bottles and cans and **took them to a CDS Vic refund point**. Polly was curious and a little nervous, but Mia reassured her that this was an important part of her journey. Polly was placed into a special machine that scanned her and rewarded Mia with a small refund for recycling.

Polly and the other bottles were then sent to a recycling plant. There, Polly was cleaned and melted down into shards before being turned into small plastic pellets. Polly was amazed at how she was transformed. These pellets could be used to make all sorts of new things. This time, Polly became part of a colourful playground slide which was being placed at Mia's school. Polly was thrilled that she would be reunited with Mia and she got to bring joy to so many more people. But Polly's story didn't end there, the possibilities were endless. **She could have become part of a new plastic bottle, a park bench or even a cosy fleece jacket.** Each of these new forms would give her a new purpose and continue her adventure.

But what if Mia had thrown Polly into the bin?

Polly shuddered at the thought of that. If she had been tossed away with the regular rubbish, Polly would have ended up in a landfill, a huge mountain of waste that keeps growing every day. In the landfill, Polly would have been buried under piles of rubbish, and it would have taken hundreds of years for her to break down and her adventure would have been over. During that time, Polly could have released harmful chemicals into the soil and water, polluting the environment and harming wildlife for generations to come.

Discover more about Polly's journey by visiting the installation at Scienceworks' from 1 November 2024 to 27 January 2025.



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The journey of Gigi the glass bottle

Gigi the Glass Bottle began her life in a factory, made from melted sand, soda ash, and limestone. She was shaped into a sleek, clear bottle and filled with juice. Gigi was then sent to a supermarket, where she waited on the shelf for her next adventure.

One sunny afternoon, a boy named Jack bought Gigi for a picnic with his family. After enjoying the refreshing drink, Jack was about to throw Gigi away, but his mum reminded him about recycling. Instead of ending up in the rubbish, **Gigi was set aside to be taken to a CDS Vic over-the-counter store return point.**

At the store, Gigi was handed to the shopkeeper and they gave Jack a small refund for recycling. **Gigi and other glass bottles were then sent to a recycling plant.** At the plant, Gigi was cleaned, crushed into tiny pieces called cullet, and melted down to make new glass products which could include, more glass bottles, windows, tiles or even pieces of art. This time, **Gigi became part of a beautiful glass vase**, holding beautiful flowers in someone's home. She loved her new role, adding beauty to the room.

But what if Jack had thrown Gigi in the rubbish bin?

Gigi would have ended up in a landfill, taking up space and wasting valuable resources. Unlike some materials, glass can be recycled endlessly without losing quality. If left in a landfill, it would take thousands of years to decompose. During this time, it would simply sit there, contributing to the growing problem of waste and pollution. Additionally, producing new glass from raw materials requires a lot of energy and natural resources.

By not recycling, the opportunity to save energy and reduce pollution is lost. Recycling glass not only conserves raw materials but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Imagine the positive impact if everyone recycled their glass bottles like Jack did with Gigi!

Gigi's journey showed that recycling helps save resources and protect the environment. By giving products a second life, we can reduce waste and make the world a cleaner, better place.



ACTIVITY SHEET



Discover Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme

What can you return?

Do you know which items can and cannot be returned at a CDS Vic depot, reverse vending machine (RVM) or over the counter (OTC) store? Sort the items below into the right columns to show if they can or cannot be deposited there.

375ml drink can - 1L plastic bottle of milk - Cordial Plastic Bottle 500ml -
plastic bottle of water 600ml - carton of chocolate milk 1.25L - 200ml
carton of orange juice - 1L glass bottle of sparkling water

Eligible

Not eligible

Where can you return your containers?

Do you know where you can return your containers? Using the Locations Map on the CDS Vic website, find your nearest refund points.

Where is the nearest refund point to your home?

What type of refund point is it?

☐ RVM ☐ OTC ☐ Depot

Where is the nearest refund point to your school?

What type of refund point is it?

☐ RVM ☐ OTC ☐ Depot



ACTIVITY SHEET



What can you do with your refund?

Think of something you are currently saving up for, like a book, game or tickets. If you get 10c for every container you return, calculate how many containers you would need to deposit to afford the item.

Item you're saving for:

Cost of the item:

**How many containers will
you need to return?**

