

# 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.



# 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 return points.

**Where is the nearest depot to your home?**

**What type of site is it?**

☐ RVM ☐ OTC ☐ Depot

**Where is the nearest depot to your school?**

**What type of site 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?**

