What is in a Commercial Bin?

EPA municipal waste characterisation study 2018

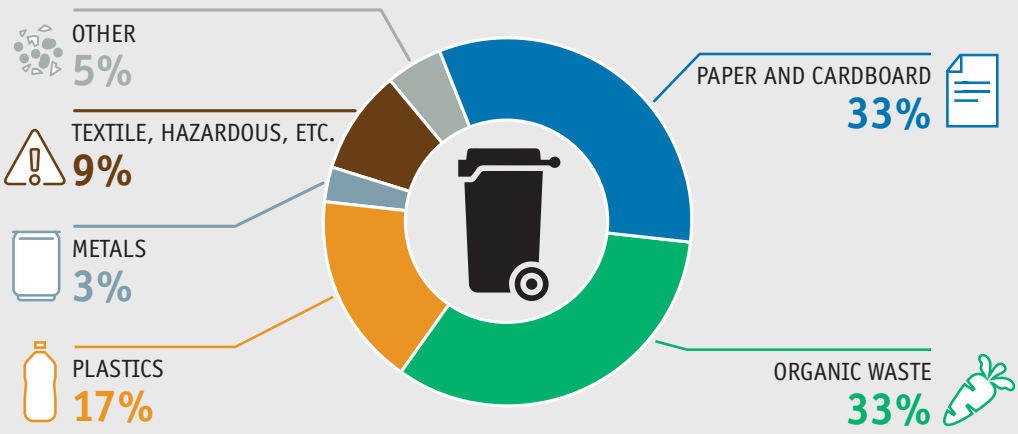
Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

General Waste

Approx. 70% of material in the black bin could be diverted to recycling or composting.

Organic waste is one third of all waste in the black bin. Businesses must divert this to the brown bin.

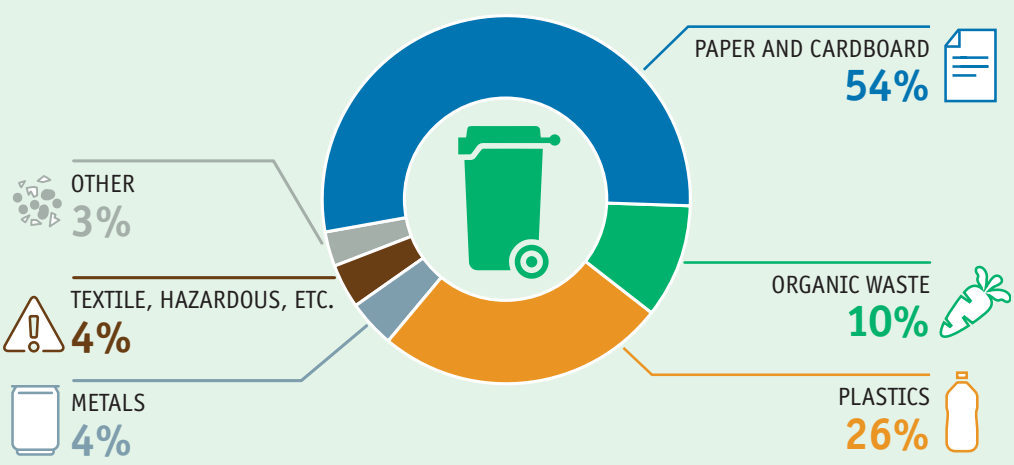
The share of plastic waste in the black bin has almost doubled over the last ten years. Approximately 4% of commercial black bin waste is made up of coffee cups.



Recyclable Waste

Packaging material in the green bin is less clean now than it was ten years ago.

The share of cardboard in commercial bins has declined substantially in the past ten years.



Organic Waste

Over 95% of the commercial brown bin waste is biodegradable;

but **25%** of this organic waste is unused packaged food, that could be managed differently.

Total Kerbside Waste

Organic waste

remains the largest component of commercial waste.

Tissue paper

accounted for **10%** of commercial waste.

Key Messages

The successful separate collection of cardboard

is a model that could be applied to other waste streams. This will increase recycling rates.

Use your bins correctly

Businesses must improve segregation: 70% of the material currently in the black could be recycled or composted.

Present your recyclables **clean, dry, loose.**

Say NO to the throwaway culture

avoid single use products.

Stop food waste

improved management of stock can prevent avoidable food waste.

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