



HELLENIC WASTE
RECYCLING



RECYCLING GUIDE



HELLENIC WASTE RECYCLING

About Us

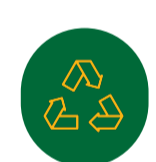
With more than **20 years** of continuous and dynamic presence in the field of non-hazardous solid waste management, **Hellenic Waste Recycling is among the most established companies in the sector in Greece.**

The company operates a network of over **600 collection points** and **collaborates** with more than **300 businesses nationwide**, strengthening its position as a reliable partner in recycling and the circular economy.



Our Values

At Hellenic Waste Recycling, our values guide every aspect of our operation. They reflect our philosophy and the way we approach every partnership, project, and environmental challenge.



Reliability & Transparency

We operate with consistency, respect, and transparency toward our partners and clients, ensuring trust and long-term collaborations.



Environmental Responsibility

We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting the circular economy through responsible waste management practices.



Collaboration

We believe in the power of partnerships with businesses, organizations, and local communities to achieve shared, sustainable solutions.



Quality & Innovation

We continuously invest in advanced technologies and processes that ensure high-quality services and continuous improvement.

“By investing in recycling, we secure a sustainable future”

Our goal is the continuous enhancement of our services, driven by sustainability, so that we can respond to modern waste management challenges and create real value for society and the environment.



How Do I Recycle My Waste?

Follow these basic rules

1

Source Separation

An essential part of recycling is **source separation**. Sort recyclable packaging materials separately from other waste. In this way, you help conserve raw materials and reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills (sanitary landfills).



2

Proper Separation of Materials

Separate glass bottles and food containers; plastic bottles and food containers (e.g. soft drinks, butter, oil, detergents, plastic wrap, cleaning products, etc.); aluminium cans (soft drinks, beer, soda); paper and cardboard (e.g. boxes from electrical appliance packaging, food packaging, detergents, hygiene products, etc.); and steel (tinplate) packaging (such as cans for evaporated milk, tuna, tomato paste, pet food, etc.), **ensuring that all packaging is completely emptied of any remaining contents.**



3

Removal of Residues

Remove food residues and liquids and keep them out of the recycling stream.



4

Recycling in Everyday Life

Recycle consistently every day. Make recycling a way of life and integrate it into your daily routine. Organise the necessary bins and use labels to make sorting easier and more effective.



Why Is Source Separation Important?



Source separation prevents the contamination of waste. Contamination in recycling occurs when waste (e.g. residues, food leftovers, liquids, liquid detergents, chemicals, hazardous materials, etc.) damages recyclable materials that could otherwise be recovered and reused. Once recyclable materials are contaminated, they can no longer be recycled and end up as waste, or additional management costs increase in order to remove the contamination.

By recycling correctly and emphasizing the quality of materials, we contribute to energy savings, reduced water pollution, conservation of natural resources, and the creation of jobs.



Below is a list of waste streams subject to separate & special collection:

According to Greek legislation (mainly **Law 4042/2012**, which incorporates Directive 2008/98/EC, as well as **Law 4819/2021** on the circular economy), certain waste categories **must be collected separately**.

Main waste streams that must be collected separately:

01	Paper & Cardboard	08	Construction & Demolition Waste (CDW)
02	Metals	09	Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
03	Plastics	10	Waste batteries & accumulators
04	Glass	11	Waste lubricating oils
05	Wood	12	End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs)
06	Packaging waste in general (included in the four streams above, as well as in specific systems, e.g. wooden pallets, metal drums)	13	Waste tyres
07	Bio-waste (food waste, pruning waste, etc.) – mandatory separate collection as of 01.01.2023	14	Waste textiles (clothing, fabrics) – new obligations under Law 4819/2021, effective from 2025

Main Categories That Must Be Collected Separately (Special Collection):

1	Hazardous waste (medical, chemical, industrial, etc.)	2	Mercury-containing waste & lighting equipment (fluorescent lamps, LED lamps, etc.)	3	Pharmaceutical waste (returned to pharmacies)
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The guiding principle is that any waste stream that can **be recycled or recovered should not be mixed with mixed waste (i.e. a mixture)** of organic waste, paper, plastics, metals, glass, food residues, inert materials, and even small hazardous items—such as batteries, which are unfortunately often disposed of incorrectly), in order to increase recycling rates and reduce landfilling.

Mandatory Separate Waste Streams in Greece

– Evolution of Core Legislation

Waste Streams	Obligation for Separate Collection	Legal References
Packaging from: Paper & cardboard Plastics Metals Glass Wood	Obligation for alternative waste management (EPR systems) (Separate collection for packaging)	Law 2939/2001 Law 3854/2010 Law 4042/2012 (Article 26) Law 4496/2017 Law 4819/2021
Bio-waste (organic waste, food waste, pruning)	Mandatory separate collection as of 01.01.2023 (for all Municipalities)	Law 4819/2021 (Article 41)
Textiles (clothing, shoes, fabrics)	Mandatory separate collection as of 01.01.2025	Law 4819/2021 (Article 41)
Construction & Demolition Waste (CDW)	Separate collection by waste stream (concrete, bricks, wood, metals, glass, gypsum) – Mandatory collection through EPR systems	Law 4042/2012 (Article 26) JMD 36259/10 PD 99/2014
Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE)	Mandatory collection through EPR systems	PD 117/2004 PD 15/2006 JMD 23615/651/E.103/9-5-2014 Law 4496/2017 Law 4819/2021
Lighting equipment & Lamps (Hg, LED, fluorescent)	Separate collection through EPR systems	PD 117/2004 PD 15/2006 JMD 23615/651/E.103/9-5-2014 Law 4496/2017 Law 4819/2021
End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs)	Delivery to authorized collection centers – Mandatory collection through EPR systems	PD 116/2004 Law 4819/2021
Waste Tyres	Separate collection through approved EPR systems (Ecoelastika)	PD 109/2004 JMD of YPEN Decision No.: ΔΔ.Α/36464/547/2023

PD: Presidential Decree

JMD: Joint Ministerial Decision

YPEN: Ministry of Environment & Energy

Scan here to view the legislation:



Mandatory Separate Waste Streams in Greece

– Evolution of Core Legislation

Waste Streams	Obligation for Separate Collection	Νομική Αναφορά
Waste Lubricating Oils (WLO)	Mandatory separate collection & recovery through Collective Alternative Management Systems (EPR schemes)	PD 82/2004 Law 4819/2021
Waste Cooking Oils	Separate collection for biofuels	Law 4819/2021 (Article 41)
Batteries & Accumulators	Return to designated collection points – separate management through EPR schemes	PD 115/2004 JMD 41624.2057.E103/2010 JMD 39200/2057/2015 Law 4496/2017 Law 4819/2021
Pharmaceutical Waste	Mandatory return to pharmacies	Law 4042/2012 Ministerial Decision: 52167/4683/2018
Waste Pesticides & Their Packaging	Special collection through dedicated systems	JMD 9268/469/2007 Law 4819/2021
Hazardous Waste	Mandatory separate collection, recording & special management	Law 4042/2012 (Art. 11 & 42) Law 4819/2021 (Art. 42)
Medical Waste (MEA / MEAY)	Mandatory separate collection & treatment	JMD 146163/2012 Law 4819/2021 (Article 42)
Waste from Tobacco Products	EPR obligation for tobacco product producers	Law 4819/2021 (Article 25–26)

PD: Presidential Decree

JMD: Joint Ministerial Decision

Scan here to view the legislation:



Our Commitment to the Future

The Recycling Guide was created to provide **simple, clear and practical guidance for the proper management of waste**. Through basic rules and easy source-separation procedures, it helps every citizen integrate recycling into their everyday life.

Proper separation of materials reduces contamination, improves the quality of recyclable streams and contributes significantly to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

HELLENIC WASTE RECYCLING supports awareness and responsible environmental behavior by promoting tools and practices that facilitate citizen participation and strengthen the circular economy. With the right guidance, recycling becomes simple, effective and beneficial for everyone.



“Together, we create a positive impact with the right solutions and your involvement.”

We actively support recycling, care for the environment, and improve quality of life.

Let's Get Social!



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