

Recycler



Alternate title Refuse/Recyclable Collector

Description Recyclers collect, sort and handle a range of recyclable items such as paper, glass, metals and plastics, each of which is processed and prepared for resale.

The waste management industry manages and processes commercial, domestic, chemical, construction, medical and hazardous waste. The industry has moved from simply collecting or disposing of refuse towards resource recovery, recycling and reprocessing of resources from wastes, followed by the disposal of residual waste. Largely the industry has four main areas of activity, being landfill, composting, recycling operations and waste collections. The industry is expanding into recycling and reprocessing (e.g. manufacturing glass and cardboard products from recycled items and generating electricity from waste matter).

The recyclable products are collected from a variety of areas such as community groups, commercial hotels and clubs, as well as householders and industry. Recyclers work in conditions that can be dirty and unhygienic.

Typical duties

- separate recyclable items according to type;
- work out payment to customer;
- manually prepare recyclable products;
- operate a forklift;
- deliver products to market for resale;
- find markets for sale of products;
- seek to increase and promote awareness of recycling;
- assist or provide advice on the development of on-site technology for more efficient handling;
- assist or provide advice in minimising and avoiding waste.

Personal requirements

- enjoy practical work;
- understand the benefits of reducing waste and recycling;
- physically fit;
- aware of personal, public health and hygiene issues.



- Qualifications**
- Certificate II in Waste Management
 - Certificate III in Waste Management
 - Certificate IV in Waste Management
- Entry pathway**
- You can work as a Recycler without formal qualifications. However, entry to this occupation may be improved if you have qualifications. You will probably get some informal training on the job. Once you are employed, you may be able to develop, and have recognised, additional skills under the Asset Maintenance Training Package that will expand your career opportunities within this industry.
- You can also become a Recycler through a traineeship in Waste Management. Entry requirements may vary, but employers and training providers generally require Year 10. Contact your local training provider for full details.
- You will also need appropriate licences to drive vehicles and operate machinery. Truck drivers and Garbage Collectors involved in transporting waste products, toxic or flammable substances must have suitably endorsed licences.
- Job prospects**
- The recycling industry is small but growing, with the general community increasing its awareness about the importance of minimising waste and pollution for better waste management.
- Employment prospects depend mainly on the level of community awareness of and participation in recycling, and the cost of re-working recycled materials.
- Specialisation**
- With experience and further training, it is possible to progress to supervisory and management positions.
- Related Jobs**
- Garbage Collector
- Further information**
- Waste Management Association of Australia [<http://www.wmaa.asn.au/>]

Revised January 2013