

# Waste hierarchy

The waste hierarchy is a worldwide model for addressing waste in a meaningful way. It ranks waste strategies in terms of how truly helpful they are.

The most desired action for managing waste is 'avoid'. It is listed at the top of the hierarchy. The least desired action, 'dispose', is listed at the bottom.

## Avoid

The best way of managing our waste is to avoid making it in the first place, for example, only buy what you need and avoid disposable and single-use items.

## Reduce

Reducing waste is the next best option for minimising waste after avoidance. Think about ways you can reduce your waste when you work, shop and play. For example, reduce waste by choosing products with little packaging and try to buy in bulk wherever possible.

## Reuse

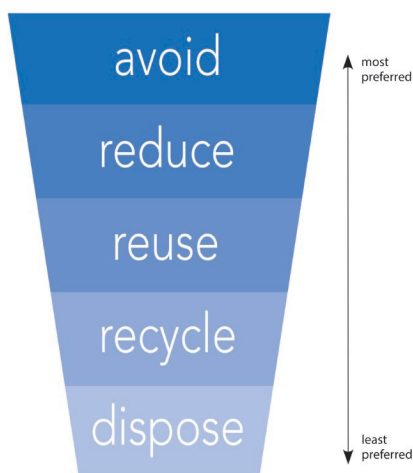
Reuse items to extend their life and save them from going to landfill. For example, use waste paper for scrap paper and take old magazines, clothes and toys to charity shops.

## Recycle

Recover valuable resources through recycling. Recycling is one of the first options that people think of when it comes to waste reduction, but it is actually only one step up from disposal.

## Disposal

Disposal is the least desirable option for waste management as anything that ends up in landfill means the loss of valuable and often non-renewable resources.



1 Waste hierarchy showing most preferred actions to least preferred

