

Waste management

Stockholm University tries to maintain its environmental certification and we would be happy if you would assist us in this.

There are basically three ways of treating garbage:

Depositing (digging down)

Burning to recycle energy and heat our houses

Using the garbage as raw material for new products

All **waste-paper-baskets** in your rooms, the kitchen and the copying-room that are regularly emptied by the cleaning staff or marked "**hushållssopor**" are exclusively for **things to be burnt**. You sort out clean and dry paper to recycle in order to make new paper – please keep it separate and empty it in the paperbin in the garbage room. Also avoid to put things there which cannot be burnt – metal scraps, hard plastic, batteries, wires, glass and so on. Most of these things have separate containers in the garbage-room. The remnants in your waste-paper-baskets could be food remnants, fruit peel-offs, soft plastic and similar things, non-recyclable coloured or plastic-covered paper and so on. Nobody is going to sort these pieces of garbage later.

In the kitchen and in the garbage room of the department there are containers for **recyclable cardboard/återvinningsbar kartong**. Sortable cardboard is made into new cardboard, but can only be so if it is clean and not cluttered with plastic. Please, therefore, if you wish to put food containers of cardboard here, you will have to wash them first. Stickiness makes to garbage attractive to really beastly rats who live under the university. Also remove all tape from boxes, because it has to be done by hand before the material can be re-used, so leaving it on incurs heavy costs for the university.

Plastic is a general category that is treated in two or three different ways. Plastic used for wrapping food is normally either polypropen or polystyrene. **Polypropen** plastic can be made into new plastic. This goes for all thick and hard plastic food containers, including the bottles and containers from Arla, Brämhults etc. For the comfort of everybody, except the rats, please clean the plastic before putting it into the **recyclable plastic /återvinningsbar plas**" bin.

Polystyrene plastic is instead recycled as energy by being burnt together with the food remnants. This goes for most thin and soft plastic, and for the plastic containers e.g. from Go-oh and Stories' salad packs. You do **not** have to feel like an environmental criminal if you throw it in the "hushållssopor" un-washed.

PET bottles should be sorted by themselves. They are made into new PET bottles or possibly fleece sweaters or other new items.

(For non-food-related purposes, other forms of plastic are sometimes used. Especially older plastic items may for example contain polyvilenchloride, PVC, which is extremely bad for human reproduction. If you are in doubt, put the plastic in the sortable rubbish place in the departmental garbage room.)

Food remnants – there is unfortunately no system for turning it to compost or biogas yet – they have to be burnt, thus throw them into **hushållssopor**.

In the **garbage room** of the department, you will find containers for bulbs, batteries, a space for copymachine ink- containers, a place for small electronics, boxes for clear and coloured glass and one for wires. There is also a place for **sortable rubbish/** (sorterbart avfall) - the only category that is sorted afterwards by the garbage entrepreneur and partly deposited. (The label may seem a bit

confusing since it refers to what you yourself cannot sort).

Please note that if you have the kitchen-week, you are supposed to take a look whether these boxes need to be emptied and brought to the common garbage sorting room at level 3, house D. – The big containers for recyclable paper and recyclable cardboard are emptied by university staff.

Other admonishments

Please turn off any electrical equipment when you leave the room for the day.

The default printing order from your computer should be double-sided printing. If it does not work, ask Victor, the IT service man, for assistance. He is here every second Thursday (ask Peter in the student expedition).

If you leave the room empty for some weeks, please draw the window blinders.

Hotels and taxis ordered to be paid through the university should normally be environmentally certified.