NOTICE FOR PATIENTS

We've stopped collecting old toothbrushes

The free recycling program behind our collection box has ended for us, so we no longer take them. Here's what to do with your old brush instead.

GENERAL WASTE BIN

Plastic toothbrush

General waste, not the recycling bin. It's too small for the sorting machines, and it's made of several plastics fused together.

E-WASTE DROP-OFF

Electric toothbrush

The handle has a battery, so it never goes in a bin. Take it to an e-waste or battery drop-off point.

Used brush heads go in general waste.

COMPOST, AFTER TAKING THE BRISTLES OUT

Bamboo toothbrush

Most bamboo toothbrushes have **nylon bristles, which are plastic**.

1. Pull each tuft of bristles out with needle-nose pliers. A small metal staple usually comes out with it.
2. Bristles and staples go in general waste.
3. Put the bare handle in your home compost.

If the pack says nylon, "plant-based" or castor oil, the bristles are plastic. If it doesn't say, keep them out of the compost.

STILL WANT IT RECYCLED?

The options now are paid

TerraCycle's Oral Care Zero Waste Box and Banish's BRAD collection both take toothbrushes, for a fee. Your local council may also run a collection: check its website.

Why did it stop? The free Colgate and TerraCycle oral care program closed to the public in August 2025, and the last date for clinics to send their boxes was set as 30 December 2026. We know of no free national route now.

Sources and current prices: thebarebrush.com.au/guides/can-you-recycle-a-plastic-toothbrush-australia

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