

# MUSTERKIDS<sup>®</sup>

## Recycling Mobile Phones

### How are Mobile Phones Recycled?

Over 93% of the materials in mobile phones, batteries and accessories can be recovered and used as raw materials in the manufacture of new products.

#### Collection

MobileMuster has over 4,000 public collection points across Australia. Old mobiles and their accessories can also be posted in for free by downloading a reply-paid mailing label, or picking up a pre-paid satchel from Australia Post.

#### Dismantling

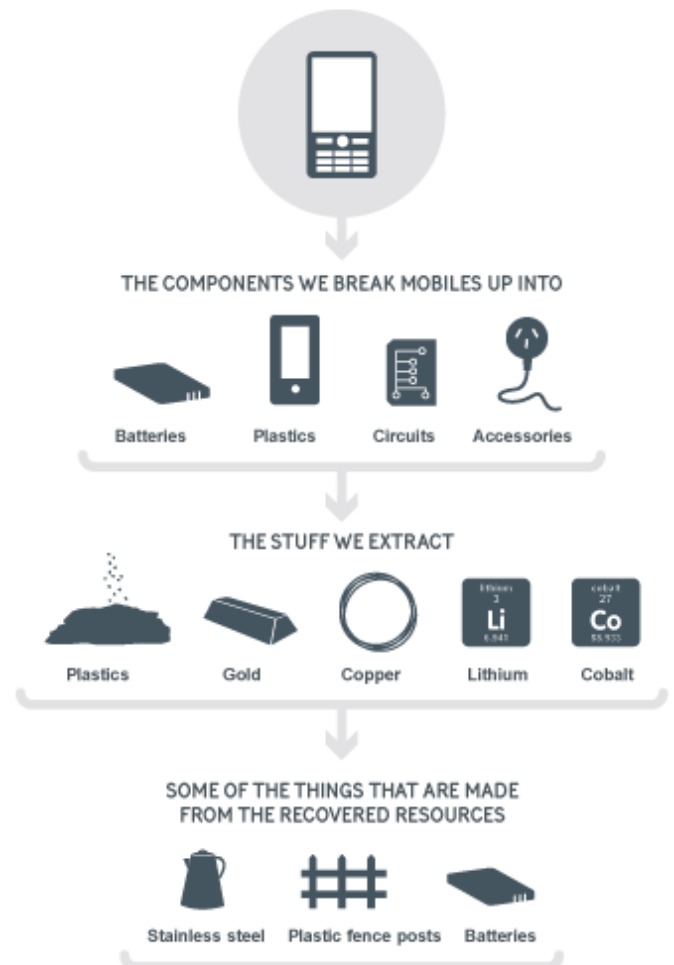
Mobile phones are dismantled and sorted into the following components: batteries, circuit boards, handsets, chargers and accessories, plastics, metals and paper packaging.

#### Processing

Depending on the type of battery they are sent to specialist recyclers and processed for the recovery of cobalt, lithium, nickel, cadmium and copper. Circuit boards are processed for metals including gold, silver, copper, lead and epoxy resin. Handset casings are shredded and turned into plastic pellets. Accessories are shredded and the plastics are separated from the ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Packaging is separated into plastic and paper and sent to local recyclers for processing.

#### Recycled Metals

Many metals can be melted down repeatedly without losing their strength or durability. The metals extracted during mobile phone recycling - including gold, copper, silver and lead are ideal for recycling because they can be used again and again in manufacturing new products.



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## Factsheet #6

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### Reuse

The materials from batteries can be reused; nickel (to make stainless steel), cadmium, cobalt and lithium (to make new batteries), and copper (to make wire). Epoxy Resin is reused in the production of shipping pallets. The plastics are reused to produce composite plastic fence posts. The paper can be recycled into many things including office paper, packaging, toilet paper, egg cartons, soundproofing, furniture and cardboard.

### Handling of the final waste

Less than 7 per cent of the mobile phone ends up in landfill as they were not suitable for recycling.

## Main Environmental benefit of recycling phones

Mobiles are made from many non-renewable materials which have been extracted from the earth - such as metals, plastics, glass and ceramics. These are precious resources that only exist in finite quantities so it's important to conserve them, and limit further use.



Avoiding future greenhouse gases



Saving energy



Protecting our environment



Saving scarce natural resources

## What can we do to help recycle mobile phones?

- We can help encourage others to hand in old phones.
- We can promote this message.
- We can create posters and other materials to help spread the word.
- This will help the earth and impact the world in a positive way.
- This will encourage others to be good product stewards.

## Glossary

Recycling: the recovery of used material for manufacture into new products.

Dismantle: to take apart.

Manufacture: to make or process into a finished product.

Recover: to bring back or restore to original state.

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Keeping old mobiles out of landfill



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