



Eco-friendly holiday metal recycling tips

As the Festive Season approaches, South Africans are preparing for braais, family gatherings, and year-end celebrations. But with the joy comes a surge in waste, especially packaging, food containers, and decorations. This year, the Metal Recyclers Association of South Africa (MRA) encourages households and businesses to make metal recycling a priority.

Aluminium and steel can be recycled endlessly without losing quality. Recycling aluminium saves up to 95% of the energy needed to produce it from raw materials. Scrap metal supports thousands of jobs in South Africa's formal and informal sectors.

Tips for a metal-wise Festive Season:

- Rinse and recycle cans: From cooldrink tins to canned food, clean metal containers are easier to process and more valuable.
- Braai smart: Recycle foil trays, beverage cans, and steel skewers. Avoid burning foil as it releases harmful fumes.
- Decorate with purpose: Choose metal ornaments or upcycled decorations that can be reused or recycled.
- Clear out clutter: Old appliances, broken tools, and metal furniture can be dropped off at local scrap yards or collected by informal recyclers.

“Metal recycling is more than a holiday habit. It is a year-round opportunity to reduce waste and support livelihoods. Every can, tray, and wire recycled helps build a cleaner, more inclusive economy,” says **Quintin Starkey**, MRA Committee Member.

Let us make this Festive Season one of conscious celebration. Recycle right, support local collectors, and start 2026 with a cleaner conscience.