

FIX-A-TAP®

AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED

A.B.N. 44 001 011 534

Australian Packaging Covenant Action Plan

April 2011 – April 2015

PLUMBING & HARDWARE WHOLESALE SUPPLIERS

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1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

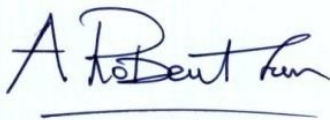
FIX-A-TAP Australia Pty Ltd is a privately owned Australian Company founded in 1971. The company is recognised as Australia's premier supplier of water saving tap and cistern maintenance items as well as an extensive range of pressure hoses. Our primary markets are hardware and plumbing outlets.

FIX-A-TAP Australia's commitment to a sustainable environment has resulted in our company joining The Australian Packaging Covenant, an agreement entered into by Federal, State and Local Governments and Industries concerned with the packaging supply chain management of consumer packaging waste in Australia.

FIX-A-TAP Australia recognises our environmental responsibilities and commits its support to The Australian Packaging Covenant to ensure we create satisfactory guidelines and strategies designed to conserve resources and facilitate the re-use and recycling of packaging materials.

Our product ranges are committed to developing water saving initiatives to ensure all households can save water, save money and help the environment. We are classified as a brand owner within The Australian Packaging Covenant framework.

The FIX-A-TAP Australia's Australian Packaging Covenant Action Plan has been created for the period April 2011 to March 2015.



Andrew Robertson
Managing Director

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2. COMPANY PROFILE

FIX-A-TAP Australia was founded by Ken Robertson in 1971, commencing business as a small wholesale supplier of plumbing and general hardware products.

Today the company is the nation's premier plumbing supplier of quality packaged tap, spout, basin, sink, shower, cistern and hose maintenance products marketed under the FIX-A-TAP®, FIX-A-LOO®, BOSTON® and LINDONI® brand names. The company currently has a product range in excess of 1000 individual product lines. FIX-A-TAP Australia currently employs 50 team members who are involved in both manufacture and distribution of our products.

FIX-A-TAP Australia is committed to developing water saving initiatives and environmental packaging initiatives which ensure all households can save water, save money and help the environment.

FIX-A-TAP Australia markets its product ranges within Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands to all leading hardware and plumbing outlets, such as the following groups.

- Bunnings
- Mitre 10 Hardware
- Thriftylink Hardware
- Home Hardware
- Reece Plumbing Supplies
- Tradelink Plumbing Supplies
- Plumbing Plus
- Plumbers Supplies Cooperative

NATIONAL BRAND NAMES

Our leading national plumbing brand names include the following:

FIX-A-TAP® Tap Maintenance product range.

FIX-A-LOO® Cistern Valves, Cistern Washers and components.

BOSTON® Assorted Hose and Hose accessories.

Lindoni™ Stainless Steel bathroom Cabinets and mirrors.

QUALITY ACCREDITATION

We invest a considerable amount of resources towards maintaining benchmark Quality Assurance Practices, with the desire to reward our customers with superior quality product and services. Our quality commitment extends to complying with Quality Assurance Services (QAS), Watermark Accreditation, Australian Gas Association Regulations and AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008 Accreditation.



3. PRODUCT RANGES

The Ultimate Plumbing Solution

Water Saving Initiatives for all your plumbing needs



FIX-A-TAP®

Anything to do with the repair and maintenance of taps. FIX-A-TAP® caters for all requirements. Packaged tap valves, body washers, o-rings, sealing washers, shower washers, spout aerators, repair kits and tools, lubricants, washing machine and dishwasher fittings – we've got it all.



FIX-A-LOO®

When it comes to leaky loos, FIX-A-LOO® has the answers to solve all cistern maintenance problems. We supply a comprehensive range of cistern washers and seals, cistern inlet and outlet valves, repair kits and tools, cistern buttons, toilet seat hinges and buffers, cistern pan fixing screws, flush pipes and rubber cones & many other parts for cistern dating back more than 30 years.



BOSTON®

The BOSTON® range incorporates an extensive assortment of hose maintenance and waste plug items including PVC pressure hoses, clear PVC tubing, washing machine and dishwasher hoses, Flexidrain hoses, braided and corrugated stainless steel water and gas connectors, hand held shower hoses, hose clamps, thread seal tapes and an extensive range of bath, basin and sink plugs.



Lindoni™

Representing an expression of fresh modern design. Lindoni™ bathroom ware offers a quality range of stainless steel bathroom cabinets and mirrors. Available in a number of different designs & surface finishes, Lindoni™ will compliment your bathroom renovation.



Water Saving

Water is a precious and expensive resource however it is an essential part of everyday life. With mandatory water restrictions being enforced by government authorities to help fight the effects of drought, water saving initiatives have become more important than ever before. Fix-A-Tap Australia are committed to developing water saving initiatives to ensure all households can save water, save money and help the environment

4. CURRENT PRODUCT PACKAGING

FIX-A-TAP Australia incorporates several different styles of product packaging and associated packaging materials as per the following:

- a) Skin card packaging with shrink film.



- b) Blister packaging with wrap around stickers & inserts.



- c) Header Card packaging.




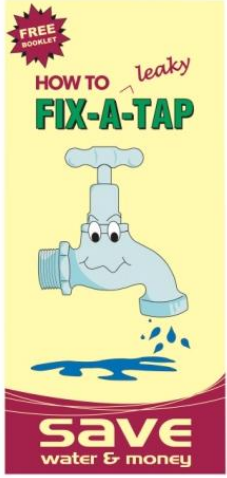
- d) Outer Cardboard Cartons.





5. CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

As part of our corporate strategy FIX-A-TAP Australia has achieved current environmental sustainability initiatives that directly relate to The Australian Packaging Covenant objectives.

The following table and photos highlight a summary of our current environmental sustainability initiatives:

INITIATIVE	PROCESS
<p>Signing of the Australian Packaging Covenant Action Plan</p>	<p>This commitment was signed on 12th September 2008 and has been communicated to all shareholders, directors and the entire FIX-A-TAP Australia team.</p>
<p>Education of customers and team members</p>	<p>Consumer education booklets have been produced and distributed at the retail point of sale to help consumers understand the importance of water saving initiatives</p> <p>“How to Fix a Leaky Loo”</p>  <p>“How to Fix a Leaky Tap”</p> 

INITIATIVE	PROCESS
	<p>Consumer water saving initiative information has also been added to relevant product packaging. E.g.: FIX-A-LOO® cistern valves</p> <div data-bbox="889 338 1149 1360" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>*Recycle logo's have also been added to product packaging</p> <div data-bbox="964 1608 1166 1801" data-label="Image"> </div>

INITIATIVE	PROCESS
	<p>*The FIX-A-TAP® website actively promotes consumer water saving initiatives</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Our Precious Resource</p> <p>Water is a precious and expensive resource, however it is an essential part of everyday life. With mandatory water restrictions being enforced by government authorities to help fight the effects of drought, water saving initiatives have become more important than ever before.</p> <p>FIX-A-TAP is committed to developing water saving initiatives to ensure all households can save water and help the environment, as well as saving money.</p> <p>Water Wastage Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A leaking tap can waste 7,000 litres per year at only 1 drip per second, and that costs approx \$7.00. ❖ A steady dribble from a shower, spout or a garden tap can waste 50,000 litres per year, about the size of an average swimming pool, and that costs approx \$50.00. ❖ An 8 minute full flow shower can use 200 litres of water per use. <p>Water Saving Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ To repair a leaking tap will cost approx \$3.00 and may save \$25.00 per year! ❖ To fit a water saving spout aerator will cost approx \$6.00 and may save \$20.00 per <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Our Precious Resource</p> <p>Water is a precious and expensive resource, however it is an essential part of everyday life. With mandatory water restrictions being enforced by government authorities to help fight the effects of drought, water saving initiatives have become more important than ever before.</p> <p>FIX-A-LOO is committed to developing water saving initiatives to ensure all households can save water and help the environment, as well as saving money.</p> <p>Water Wastage Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A small dribble into a cistern pan can waste 25,000 litres per year, at a cost of approx \$25.00. ❖ Water running slowly into a cistern pan may waste 50,000 litres per year - the same as an average sized swimming pool, at a cost of approx \$50.00. ❖ An older toilet cistern may use 13 litres of water every flush. <p>Water Saving Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Installing a FIX-A-LOO Dual Flush Cistern Valve, can save 30,000 litres of water per year, a saving of approx \$30.00 per toilet. ❖ Replacing all cistern washers may cost as little as \$5.00 and save up to \$50.00 every year.

INITIATIVE	PROCESS
Buy Recycled	Fix-A-Tap Australia has implemented a buy recycled policy for any packaging or office supplies where this is practically possible, e.g. Toilet paper, printing & copy paper, toner cartridges and printing materials. We also recycle 70% of all cardboard in our logistics and packaging streams. We buy recycled pallets in the logistics stream and reuse plastic import pallets.
Product design	All products have been designed to minimise waste in both the logistics and manufacturing stream to meet our customers' requirements for merchandising product information / instruction and presentation requirements

6. SCHEDULE FOR PACKAGING REVIEW

Type of Packaging	Review date	Person responsible	Completed Date
Skin Card	July 2012	John Elder	
Blister Packaging	August 2012	John Elder	
Header Card	September 2012	John Elder	
Carton Stock	January 2013	John Elder	
Outer Cartons	February 2013	John Elder	

7. ACTION PLAN

	Key Performance Indicator	ACTIONS / OBJECTIVES	TARGET	TARGET DATE
1.	Design and packaging optimised to achieve resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact without compromising product quality and safety	Develop and document policies and procedures for evaluating and procuring packaging using the sustainable packing guidelines.	Implement new policies and procedures to undertake product packaging group reviews to ensure that the SPG is effective. Complete evaluation of all packaging groups. a) Skin Cards b) Blister Packaging c) Header Cards d) Carton Stack e) Outer Cartons New and old products to be completed at same time as review undertaken.	February 2013
2.	Recycling. The efficient collection and recycling of packaging.	70% recycling rate. Implement a formal policy of buying recycled where applicable throughout the supply chain and administration areas.	Implement new policies and procedures to formalise a policy of buying recycled where possible. This will reinforce our informal policy that has been adopted throughout the company and operated during the old National Packaging Covenant. Review all on site recycling systems and report results.	December 2011
3.	Product Stewardship. Demonstrate a commitment to Product Stewardship.	Implementation of formal policies and procedures in working with others in the supply chain to improve the design, procurement and recovery of packaging.	Implement new policies and procedures to work with others in the supply chain to improve design procurement and recovery of packaging.	February 2015

8. SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING GUIDELINE – PRODUCT GROUP REVIEW DOCUMENT 2011

Company:		Review reference:	Date:
Contact:		Contact details:	
Product / packaging description		Photo	
Existing or new packaging?			
People involved in the review			
Name	Position	Company	Rationale for involvement

9. SUMMARY CONSIDERATIONS

Activities to undertake to improve sustainability of packaging format/category

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Environmental benefits to come out of review

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Environmental impacts, risks and barriers

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10. DEMONSTRATED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES

	<i>Consumer Packaging</i>	<i>Secondary packaging (used to bundle consumer products, e.g. shipper, shrink film)</i>	<i>Tertiary (used to bundle secondary packaging, e.g. pallet wrap, strapping)</i>	<i>Opportunities for improvement</i>	<i>Evidence for auditors</i>
Minimise materials (source reduction)					
1. Is the packaging necessary?					
2. Has the package been designed to use the minimum amount of material necessary to suit the required level of functionality?					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum number of layers? 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum packaging weight? 					
3. Are there any options to further reduce material?					
4. What is the likely impact of these options on functionality, product protection and consumer safety?					
5. Does the design of the package allow the product to be completely dispensed, i.e. to avoid product wastage?					
Maximise water and energy efficiency					
6. Have you and your suppliers taken steps to optimise the energy efficiency of production processes and distribution?					
7. Have you and your suppliers taken steps to optimise the water efficiency of production processes?					
8. Have you considered using renewable energy for manufacturing, e.g. by purchasing a percentage of Green Power?					

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<i>Use recycled materials</i>					
9. What is the amount and percentage of recycled material? (Specify source, i.e. pre- or post-consumer)					
10. Could alternative formats or materials incorporate recycled material or offer a better environmental impact solution? If so, how much, and why were they not selected?					
11. Is it possible to use more <i>post-consumer</i> recycled material? If no, please explain the rationale.					
12. Have you discussed the use of recycled materials with your marketing department and identified any market concerns?					
13. If a recycled content claim is made, is the minimum level of recycled content specified in accordance with AS/NZS 14021?					
<i>Use recycled materials</i>					
14. What is the potential for and availability of materials derived from a renewable source?					
15. Are the renewable raw materials grown and harvested using sustainable farming or forestry practices?					
16. What is the potential for incorporating recyclable materials?					

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17. Describe your understanding on the extent to which the consumer packaging used is collected for recycling in the geographic area(s) where the product will be sold?					
<i>Minimise hazards associated with potentially toxic and hazardous materials</i>					
18. Have you applied conventional and conservative risk management principles in the selection of substances for packaging applications (e.g. inks, pigments, stabilisers and adhesives)? This includes, where possible, elimination of toxic and hazardous substances or minimisation of such substances where their use is necessary.					
19. Does the packaging meet Australian and /or international standards in relation to the levels of potentially toxic and harmful substances? For example, the EU Packaging Directive specifies that the combined weight of heavy metals (mercury, lead, cadmium and hexavalent chromium) in a package or any of its components must not exceed 100ppm.					
<i>Use materials from responsible suppliers</i>					
20. Are your raw materials sourced from suppliers who have documented environmental management systems?					
21. Do you give preference to suppliers that are signatories (if applicable) to the Covenant?					

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22. Are you or your suppliers engaged in a sustainability program such as the PACIA / EPA Victoria Sustainability Leadership Framework?					
Design for transport					
23. Can the distribution packaging be reduced or eliminated through redesign of the primary or secondary package, or vice versa?					
24. Are you currently using shelf ready/retail ready packaging? Is it being used effectively? If it is not being used effectively has this been communicated to others in the supply chain?					
25. Have you used light weighting (source reduction) strategies in your package design? Have you considered the overall environmental impact of light-weighting, e.g. does your design for transport have a negative impact on the recyclability of the used packaging?					
26. Have you designed your consumer packaging to maximise the efficiency of secondary or tertiary packaging, e.g. for example in pallet configuration?					
27. Are you fully utilising the transport options such as pallet efficiency and truck height? Are there any efficiencies that can be achieved?					

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28. Is there an opportunity to switch to more efficient vehicles, hybrid vehicles or renewable energy sources for your distribution fleet?					
29. Do you consider back-loading of used packaging or waste products once deliveries have been made? Can your distribution network aid the recovery of used packaging?					
Design for reuse					
30. Have you considered and compared the environmental benefits of reusable packaging with single-use packaging?					
31. Do you have packaging supply chain confirmation that the package is capable of reuse for the intended application under normal conditions, without risk to the product or to the health and safety of packaging supply chain workers and consumers?					
32. Has the product been designed to maximise the number of return trips / reuse?					
33. Is the packaging format applicable for reconditioning once the packaging has fulfilled its designated purpose? If the product cannot be reconditioned, can the reusable packaging be recycled?					
Design for recovery					
34. To what extent are the packaging materials collected for recycling in the geographic area in which the product will be sold?					

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35. How much of the packaging is recyclable?					
36. How many materials are being used in this package? If more than one material is used, are the different materials compatible in the recycling process?					
37. Are any materials bonded together and therefore difficult to recycle? If yes, has an alternative format/system been considered?					
38. Has the packaging been designed to minimise the impacts that any components such as closures, labels, sleeves, carry handles, etc. may have on the recycling process?					
39. Have you consulted with recyclers or composters (depending on the intended recovery process) to find out whether any components will be problematic in the recovery process or in the end-product?					
40. If compostable materials are being considered, has reference been made to industry standards such as the PACIA's document, Using Degradable Plastics in Australia – A product stewardship guide and commitment?					

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41. Is packaging of this type and purpose included in the Australian Council of Recyclers (ACOR) Kerbside recycling specifications? Have these specifications been considered in the packaging design?					
42. Have you developed and implemented appropriate labelling on packaging to encourage consumers to recycle or compost?					
43. Is rigid plastic packaging labelled with PACIA's plastics identification code?					
<i>Design for litter reduction</i>					
44. Do you understand where, when and how the product will be used and by whom?					
45. Is the package likely to be consumed away from home and therefore have the propensity to become litter?					
46. Is the package likely to be consumed away from home and therefore have the propensity to become litter?					
47. How many separate or easily separable components that could end up as litter does the packaging item have (e.g., screw cap lids, peel off seals), and can they be reduced?					
48. Has the package been designed to minimise the number of separate or separable components?					
49. Do you provide advice for consumers on the label to encourage appropriate disposal or recovery?					

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50. What steps have you undertaken to reduce the occurrence of your packaging in the litter stream?					
51. Have options been considered for away-from-home recycling as part of an overall littering abatement program?					
<i>Design for consumer accessibility</i>					
52. Has the consumer's ability to access the product within the packaging been adequately considered in the design process? For example, has a consumer specialist analysed the actions required to interact with the product?					
53. Have you considered whether the level of information on the packaging ensures the consumer is aware of its contents and how to open the package?					
54. Have you considered the demographic of the consumer who will use the product? Are there any limiting factors typically associated with these consumers?					
55. Can changes be made to improve the ability of the consumer to use the product without compromising the safety, security or quality?					
56. To what extent has your company ever received any complaints in relation to accessibility of packaging?					

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57. Could an alternative design be used efficiently to minimise the requirement for tools such as a knife or scissors?					
<i>Provide consumer information on sustainability</i>					
58. What environmental issues have been considered during development of the product's marketing strategy, for example use of environmental claims, logos and consumer education?					
59. Will any environmental claims be made about the packaging item?					
60. Has information been used on packaging to encourage recycling, for example the Mobius loop (refer to AS/NZS 14021).					
61. Has plastic packaging been identified with the voluntary Plastics Identification Code which marks plastic containers to identify the plastic resin from which they are made? (Note - The code is not intended to be a guarantee of recycling or to provide companies with a platform for environmental claims. Copies of the Code and Guidelines on its use are available from PACIA).					
62. Has appropriate information in relation to litter prevention been included on all packaging of products likely to be consumed away from home?					

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63. If recycling logos are to be used on the packaging, have you identified existing systems that will be able to recycle the packaging?					