

ASUKASVIESTI ²₂₀₂₃

A vibrant photograph of a butterfly with orange and black wings perched on a white daisy flower. In the background, a person is visible, and there are other flowers in shades of purple and yellow.

SORTING WASTE IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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RESPONSIBILITY IS KEY AT VTS-KODIT

THE strategy of VTS-kodit has four focus areas, one of which is responsibility. Responsibility includes things such as responsible management of renovation debt, property management services, energy efficiency and recycling, but many other topics as well.

Balanced financial management with long-term goals is an essential part of responsible business for us. It is the mission of VTS-kodit to offer reasonably priced housing and conditions for a good life. The mission has grown even more important in the past few years as inflation, increased construction costs and the energy crisis have increased the costs of living.

Responsible business also involves responsibility towards employees. Employee wellbeing matters to us, as do their opportunities for self-development and training.

As for our tenants, responsibility can be seen in our reasonable rent levels and well-maintained and safe buildings. In addition to these, energy-efficient properties and operating methods, good opportunities for recycling and the promotion of circular economy (such as lending out items) are other signs of VTS-kodit's responsibility.

The City of Tampere aims to become carbon-neutral by 2030. Through its own actions, VTS-kodit aims to support this goal through energy contracts and solutions for renovation and new construction. We make well-thought-out investments in preserving biodiversity.

To promote carbon neutrality, we calculate the carbon footprint of our new buildings and make calculations for the carbon footprint of our buildings' whole lifecycle. In our new sites, we seek to achieve energy performance class A. At the same time, we will keep our most important mission in mind: ensuring reasonable rent levels. In our projects that promote environmental friendliness, we always look at the benefits in relation to the cost level.

We can all work together for sustainability and look after our environment. This magazine offers everyday tips on topics such as waste sorting and eco-friendly cleaning.

I wish you a nice and sunny summer!

Jaana Ojares
Property Manager at VTS-kodit

HIGH LEVEL OF DATA SECURITY AT VTS-KODIT

DEAR readers of the Asukasviesti magazine – I hope your summer is starting out well!

Finland will have a new government this year. The main topic of the parliamentary elections was the economy, and the government will surely take action to reduce the national debt. This raises questions about how potential budget cuts will affect the lives of ordinary people. Personally, I hope for patience in decision-making.

Topics related to data security have also stirred up debate after the large-scale data breach at the psychotherapy company Vastaaamo. Because of this, for its spring meeting, the Board of VTS-kodit invited an expert from our digital service provider to discuss the state of our data security.

I am happy to inform you that data security is at a high level at VTS-kodit. The services provided by our partner company will soon have an additional layer of authentication that will improve the systems' reliability even further. The people working on the systems will also attend regular training sessions in data security.

Data security will undoubtedly remain topical in the coming years

as well. This is why the Board of VTS-kodit decided to add this topic to its annual agenda. Moving forward, we will check the data security status of VTS-kodit two or three times a year. This helps us ensure that our data security will remain at the best possible level.

After the pandemic, tenant activities have resumed at a good level: there were over a thousand tenants' events organised in 2022. I am delighted that our tenants are active and want to contribute to the comfort of their neighbourhoods. After all, at VTS-kodit, we want our tenants to feel comfortable. In addition to reasonable rent, tenants also receive other benefits, such as free access to the shared laundry rooms, gyms and activity rooms. In addition to these, the Pisteet kotiin tenant bonus system brings more comforts to everyday life.

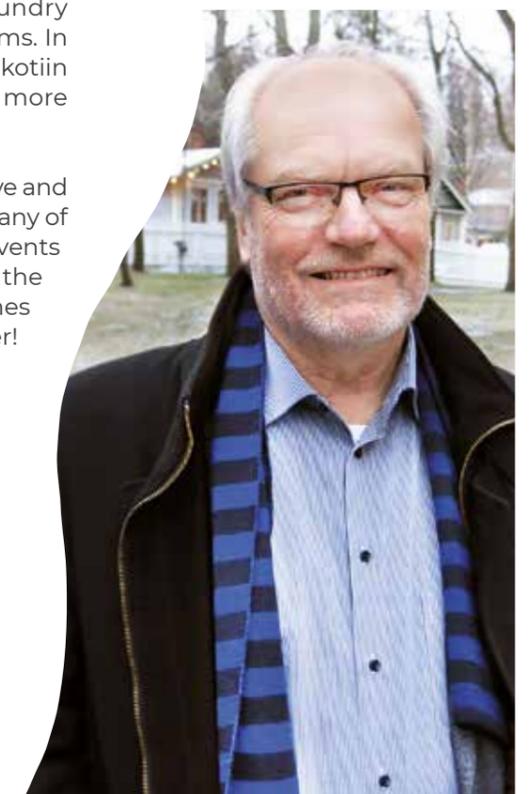
I wish all our tenants an active and sunny summer! I hope that many of you will attend our tenants' events and other tenant activities in the summer. Let's make VTS homes a place for a good life together!

Pekka Anttila
Chair of the Board

MOVING FORWARD, WE WILL CHECK THE DATA SECURITY STATUS OF VTS-KODIT TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR."



BALANCED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WITH LONG-TERM GOALS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS."



VTS-kodit organised a field trip for the members of its sustainability group and eco team.



MIXED WASTE WARMS HOMES – ALSO AT VTS-KODIT

Did you know that only 1% of mixed waste ends up in a landfill in the Pirkanmaa region? Everything else is put to use at the Tammervoima waste-to-energy plant. In spring 2023, VTS-kodit organised a field trip for its responsibility working group and eco team to the waste-to-energy plant, located at Tarastenjärvi. There, mixed waste is turned into electricity and district heating.

“The waste-to-energy plant significantly reduces environmental stress. Thanks to it, the Pirkanmaa region also enjoys the lowest waste management fees in Finland,” says environmental educator **Liisa Malin** from Pirkanmaan Jätehuolto.

Half of the Tammervoima waste-to-energy plant is owned by the Pirkanmaan Jätehuolto waste management company and the other half by the Tampereen Sähkölaitos electricity company. The energy plant is in operation 24/7 and also receives mixed waste from Central Finland, in addition to Pirkanmaa.

From furnace to generator

The waste-to-energy plant at Ta-

rastenjärvi receives about 90 truckloads of mixed waste daily. The waste is lifted up by a gigantic polyp grab crane and taken to a grate furnace where it is burned in a fire of 1,000 degrees Celsius.

“The ash and non-combustible waste are taken to a company for managing special waste for sorting and recycling,” Liisa Malin explains.

The waste-to-energy plant’s mechanism is surprisingly simple. The immense heat of the furnace turns the water in the pipes into steam that generates electricity when directed to a generator. The hot steam also heats up the water for district heating.

“All heat generated is utilised,” Malin says.



A SINGLE BAG OF MIXED WASTE PRODUCES ENOUGH ENERGY FOR...

- ▶ a 7-minute warm shower
- ▶ heating an area of 3 square metres for 24 hours
- ▶ baking in the oven for 60 minutes
- ▶ charging an electric bicycle for 50 kilometres.

Source: Pirkanmaan Jätehuolto waste management company

Sorting matters

Thanks to the waste-to-energy plant, mixed waste can be utilised efficiently in Pirkanmaa. However, Liisa Malin reminds us that careful sorting remains of the utmost importance.

“The plant is more productive the better waste is sorted,” Malin states.

Biowaste and other sortable waste that is put in mixed waste reduce the quality of the incinerated waste. For example, metals put in mixed waste are harmful for the waste-to-energy plant. Biowaste and recyclable packaging materials can also be utilised for the production of fertilisers and new packaging materials.



LET'S SORT WITH CARE!

Sorting does not have to be difficult. When you have a grasp of the basics and use common sense, sorting quickly becomes an easy routine.

PUT BIOWASTE IN ITS OWN BIN

According to a study by the Pirkanmaan Jätehuolto waste management company, mixed waste in Pirkanmaa contains as much as 38% of biowaste. Due to its high level of moisture, biowaste reduces the quality of incinerated waste. At the same time, valuable nutrients are lost. They could be used to make fertilisers and biogas.

These GO TO biowaste:

- ▶ leftover and spoiled food
- ▶ fruit and vegetable peels, bones, fishbones
- ▶ coffee grounds, filter papers and teabags
- ▶ paper towels and napkins
- ▶ withered flowers and plants

These DO NOT BELONG in biowaste:

- ▶ liquids
- ▶ cigarette stubs
- ▶ animal droppings
- ▶ biodegradable diapers and sanitary towels
- ▶ soil and sand



One bag of biowaste produces...

- ▶ fertiliser to produce 400 grams of bread
- ▶ biogas for a drive of 4 kilometres.

Source: Pirkanmaan Jätehuolto waste management company

SEPARATE PACKAGING WASTE

Packaging waste, meaning paper, cardboard, glass, metal and plastic, can be recycled to make new materials. This is why it is worthwhile to separate them.

Packaging waste must be clean and dry. For example, an empty milk carton should be rinsed and drained before it can be put to the collection bin.

“However, you shouldn’t waste warm water and cleaning liquid on cleaning packaging waste. If you can’t clean a container with a small amount of cool water, you can put it to mixed waste,” environmental educator **Liisa Malin** points out.

**PAPER - CARDBOARD
- GLASS - METAL - PLASTIC**



Did you know?

- ▶ The collection of cardboard, glass, metal and plastic is only intended for packaging waste.
- ▶ For example, empty food jars belong in the glass collection, but old glasses do not.
- ▶ The plastic collection is intended for plastic wrapping, but not items like plastic toys.

NEVER PUT HAZARDOUS WASTE IN A MIXED WASTE BIN

Not all waste belongs in a residential collection point. Hazardous waste, such as chemicals and batteries, should be taken to a waste station or a dedicated collection point.

The residential waste collection points are not intended for old furniture or large electrical equipment, either. When waste that do not belong in the collection point are left there, the housing company incurs additional fees, which may eventually cause rents to rise.

These types of waste DO NOT BELONG in your building’s collection point:

- ▶ old furniture
- ▶ electrical equipment and scrap electronics
- ▶ batteries, light bulbs, fluorescent lamps
- ▶ paints and lubricating oils
- ▶ old car tyres
- ▶ impregnated timber



Where should I take hazardous waste?

- ▶ To a waste station or waste centre
- ▶ To the touring Repe & Romu trucks
- ▶ To a Vartti container

More information: <https://pjhoy.fi/en/type%2520of%2520waste/hazardous-waste/>

TENANTS OF VTS-KODIT SORT WASTE ENTHUSIASTICALLY

VTS-KODIT offer a home to up to 7% of Tampere's population. With this number of tenants, it makes a difference how we sort our waste. Fortunately, the tenants of VTS-kodit are active recyclers and the sorting statistics look better each year.

"VTS-kodit monitors recycling rates annually, and we also develop new ways to promote recycling," says Development Engineer **Miska Pöyry**.

In Finland, the amount of mixed waste should be reduced significantly. The tenants of VTS-kodit are doing well in this regard: the amount of mixed waste has been in decline for several years, even though the number of homes has increased.

"However, VTS-kodit tenants still generate 2.5 million kilograms of mixed waste per year. If all waste was properly recycled, there would be a minimal amount of mixed waste," Miska points out.

More cardboard waste, less paper

Changes in everyday routines can be seen in the waste sorting statistics. The amount of recycled paper has decreased as many people no longer receive advertisements or subscribe to print newspapers. Then again, as online shopping becomes more commonplace, there is much more cardboard waste since products are often delivered in cardboard boxes.

"It is not necessarily a bad thing, since cardboard is easy to recycle," Miska Pöyry says.



VTS-kodit started to promote the recycling of plastic in 2019, and currently almost every site includes a plastic collection bin. After the initial enthusiasm, the sorting of plastic has decreased somewhat.

"Recycling plastic may be difficult if you do not have enough containers for it in your kitchen cabinet. VTS-kodit is aiming to increase the number of bins in the homes, at least when making larger-scale renovations."

One-person households should also sort their waste

The amounts of biowaste sorted at VTS-kodit have varied in the past

few years. A person living alone may feel that sorting is unnecessary if there is only a little waste.

"Still, we want to encourage one-person households to sort their biowaste as well. If biowaste is put to a mixed waste bin, it will slow down the combustion at the waste incineration plant," Miska Pöyry states.

Sorting is easy even in a small household when you take up the habit of taking the garbage out often. With a small biowaste bin with a lid at home, odours or fruit flies will not cause problems. If the kitchen has little room, waste such as glass and metal can be put to the same container and sorted only at the collection point.

ECO-FRIENDLY WAYS OF CLEANING YOUR HOME

CLEANING agents contain plenty of chemicals that have a negative environmental impact when they end up in nature and water. When choosing cleaning agents, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a good sign of a product's eco-friendliness.

However, you can even clean your home without any chemicals. Many cleaning tips that are passed down from generation to generation are natural and inexpensive: you can easily find the materials in your kitchen cabinets.



GET RID OF SMELLS WITH BAKING SODA

Baking soda is a multi-purpose cleaning agent as it both neutralises bad odours and removes stains. When you mix a few tablespoons of baking soda in warm water, you get an all-purpose cleaner for kitchen and bathroom surfaces, for example.

You can also freshen up sofa cushions and other textiles by sprinkling baking soda on them, letting it sit for 15 minutes and vacuuming it off. You can also use this trick for smelly trainers, but in that case, you should leave the baking soda in overnight.



LEMON MAKES GLASSES AND TILES BRIGHT

Fresh lemon juice contains natural citric acid that removes stains and odours. You can use lemon juice to wipe grease stains from windows, polish glasses and brighten up stained bathroom tiles and glass doors.

You can also use lemon to clean a microwave oven easily. Put a bowl with water and lemon juice in the microwave and heat for about two minutes. Let the lemon juice sit in the microwave for a few more minutes before opening the door. Finally, wipe the microwave's inner surfaces with a damp cloth.



SHINY STEEL SURFACES WITH VINEGAR

Vinegar is excellent for polishing stainless steel. A mix of vinegar and water cleans steel pans and water taps effectively. However, vinegar's high acidity makes it unsuitable to some surfaces.

Vinegar is also an excellent addition for cleaning windows. You can make an eco-friendly window cleaner by adding a dash of vinegar and a few drops of eco-certified dishwashing liquid to water.



BEING ECONOMICAL IS BEING ECOLOGICAL

Whatever cleaning agent you use, you should use it in moderate amounts. Often, just a small amount is enough for good results. Excess water is usually not necessary, either. For example, when mopping the floors, we often use a whole bucket of water, even though a smaller amount would do the job.

When it comes to cleaning supplies, you should invest in long-term use. More eco-friendly options for paper towels and disposable cleaning cloths are microfibre and sponge cloths that are machine-washable. Even an old T-shirt can be cut into cleaning cloths.



VISIT THE TENANTS' EVENTS IN THE SUMMER!

VTS-kodit will be organising several tenants' events in the summer. All tenants of VTS-kodit in the neighbourhood are welcome. Join us at summery festivities and get to know your neighbours!

Depending on the location, the event programme includes things like snacks, live music, pony carriage rides and a pleasant time together.

Vaakonkatu 13, Hyhky
Wednesday 24 May
at 17.00–19.00

Opiskelijankatu 21–23, Hervanta
Wednesday 31 May
at 17.00–19.00

Kolunkatu 3, Annala
Wednesday 23 August
at 17.00–19.00

Multisillankatu 7, Multisilta
Wednesday 30 August
at 17.00–19.00

Please note that we will be photographing marketing materials for VTS-kodit at our tenants' events. By attending the event, you accept being photographed.

Recycle your electronics and textiles at tenants' events

Do you have an old coffee maker, a used fluorescent lamp or an old winter coat laying about at home? At the VTS-kodit tenants' events, organisations TITRY and Nextiili receive small electrical equipment, hazardous domestic waste and textiles.

They accept electrical equipment and hazardous domestic waste that are small enough to be carried by one person. The textiles should be clean, dry and odourless. Holes or persistent stains are fine.

SMALL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

- ▶ phones, radios and computers
- ▶ lamps
- ▶ vacuum cleaners
- ▶ coffee makers
- ▶ other small electrical equipment you can fit on your lap

HAZARDOUS WASTE

- ▶ paints, glues and solvents
- ▶ batteries
- ▶ fluorescent lamps and energy-saving light bulbs

CLEAN TEXTILES

- ▶ clothing
- ▶ shoes, bags and other accessories
- ▶ bedclothes, towels, curtains, tablecloths
- ▶ textiles and textile patches larger than an A4 sheet



Photo: Särkänniemi



VTS
KODIT

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

RESIDENTS' DAY AT SÄRKÄNNIEMI

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023, 9–12 A.M.

Exciting thrills ahead! As a VTS-kodit resident, you get to join the fun at an amazing price. Tickets are available starting on Friday, May 12, 2023 on our website vts.fi.



TICKET PRICES

- Resident ticket 5 €
- Friend ticket and VTS partners 10 €
- Children under 3 years old 0 €

BUY TICKETS: www.vts.fi

Please note that tickets are limited and available only in advance. Tickets can be redeemed until June 8, 2023, or while tickets last.

The ticket grants access to all Särkänniemi rides as well as entrance to Doghill Fairytale Farm, Aquarium and Näsinneula Observation Tower on June 10, 9–12 a.m.

On the day, Särkänniemi is only available to VTS-kodit residents and friends. No entry with Season Card!

For the rest of the day, Särkänniemi Passes are available for 24 € / each at Särkänniemi ticket desk in exchange for your entrance ticket.

VTS-kodit marketing material will be filmed at the event. By attending you consent to being filmed.