

**SIMPLER** RECYCLING

# FAQs Guide

All your questions answered for the new  
**Simpler Recycling** legislation.



# SIMPLER RECYCLING **FAQs**

From 31 March 2025, Simpler Recycling rules come into force, making recycling easier and more consistent for businesses across the UK. This new system cuts confusion and boosts recycling rates. In this FAQ guide, you'll find clear answers on what's changing, what's required, and how to get ready.

## **Q** What is the new legislation?

**A** Defra, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is introducing new legislation for all businesses and households over the next two years and aims to simplify and improve recycling rates and reduce valuable materials going to landfill.

## **Q** When does it come into force?

**A** **By 31 March 2025**, all businesses and relevant non-domestic premises with ten or more full-time paid employees at one or more locations in England will need to arrange for the collection of the core recyclable waste streams, (glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, and food waste).

- Relevant non-domestic premises include residential homes, premises forming part of a university, school or other educational establishment, premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home, and premises of a description specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.

**By 31 March 2026**, local authorities will be required to collect the core recyclable waste streams from all households in England. This includes introducing weekly food waste collections for most homes.

**By 31 March 2027**, micro-firms (businesses with fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees) in England will need to arrange for the collection of the core recyclable waste streams, (glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, and food waste).

## **Q** Who must follow the rules?

**A** Any business or workplace premises that generates waste that is similar in nature and composition to household waste must follow these rules across their operations (including for example, staff kitchens). This includes all relevant non-domestic premises, such as:

- Offices
- Retail and wholesale
- Transport and storage
- Hospitality, such as cafés, restaurants and hotels
- Places of education, such as schools, colleges and universities
- Premises forming part of a university, school or educational establishment
- Healthcare places, such as GP surgeries and hospitals
- Care homes
- Charities and those registered as charities
- Places of worship
- Penal institutes
- Charity shops selling donated goods that came from a domestic property
- Residential hostels that provide accommodation to people with no other permanent address or who are unable to live at their permanent address only
- Premises used only or mainly for public meetings.

**Q What bins will I need?**

- A** The basic requirement is a separate bin for
- Dry Mixed Recycling - plastic, metal and glass
  - Paper and cardboard - subject to a co-collection assessment
  - Food Waste - all food scraps, even in small quantities
  - General Waste - residual waste

**Q Do I need a separate bin for cardboard?**

- A** Not necessarily; it is a legal requirement for waste collectors to collect paper and cardboard separately from metal, glass and plastic. However, if this is not technically, environmentally, and economically practical to do so or has no significant environmental benefit, we will complete a written assessment to determine if this is required. You may contact us to discuss, however we will inform you accordingly if it is required.

**Q Do I need to add recycling bins to buildings without staff?**

- A** The legislation requires you to add a recycling bin and food bin to each location where you currently only have a general waste bin as part of your service.

**Q I don't produce food waste, do I still need a food bin?**

- A** Businesses of all sizes will be required to separate food waste for collection regardless of quantity produced, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has confirmed, making it a stricter requirement than the 5kg minimum threshold in Wales.

**Q Do I need a separate collection for glass?**

- A** If you are a business that produces a lot of glass, i.e. a bar or restaurant, we as a waste collector require you to have a separate bin for glass. This improves the recycling of both glass and the Dry Mixed Recycling by keeping the materials separated. It is also the most cost-effective solution for your waste and a health and safety requirement. If you only have a small amount of glass i.e. a few jars and some bottles, then these should be mixed with your other Dry Mixed Recycling and separated from your general (residual) waste.

**Q What size will the bins be?**

- A** We will supply all sizes of bins for Dry Mixed Recycling the smallest will be a 240ltr bin. For food they will be either 240ltr or 120ltr bins.

**Q What if I don't have room for more bins?**

- A** If you don't have room for more bins, in some circumstances we will offer a reduced sized container for your general waste, and in city centres we will be offering a pre-paid bag service.

**Q Will the bins be coloured or have labels?**

- A** The bins will either be colour-coded or have coloured lids, but will always have labels on to tell you which bin is for which waste.

**Q Will the labels detail what can go in each bin?**

- A** No, but an explanation will be available on our website or on your portal.

The below will explain what you can put in each bin:

**Dry mixed recyclable waste is:**

- Glass - such as drinks bottles and rinsed empty food jars
- Metal - such as drinks cans and rinsed empty food tins, empty aerosols, aluminium foil, aluminium food trays and tubes
- Plastic - such as rinsed empty food containers and bottles
- Paper and cardboard - such as old newspapers, envelopes, delivery boxes and packaging

**Food waste is:**

- Food leftovers
- Waste generated by preparing food (of any volume, including if the workplace does not serve food or have a canteen) excludes food in containers such as packets or tins

Please note that biodegradable and compostable plastic packaging materials are not collected within any of the above categories; please place them in your general waste containers.



**Q Does TEEP (Technically, Environmentally, Economically Practical) apply instead of Simpler Recycling?**

**A** This only applies for separate cardboard collections, otherwise simpler recycling requires that, from 31 March 2025 (or 31 March 2027 for micro-firms), all workplaces (businesses and non-domestic premises) in England have a legal duty to present the following wastes separated in accordance with the arrangements with their waste collector:

- Dry Mixed Recycling - plastic, metal and glass. (More information on separating recyclable material is in the 'Separating recyclable waste' section)
- Paper and cardboard - subject to a co-collection assessment
- Food Waste - all food scraps, even in small quantities
- General Waste - residual waste

**Q What if I don't want an extra bin?**

- A**
- If you do not comply with these requirements by 31 March 2025 (or 31 March 2027 for micro firms), you are at risk of receiving a compliance notice from the Environment Agency.
  - Compliance notices can also be issued against anyone who is not separating waste in agreement with their waste collector. This will often be the waste producers, for example the business, but this may also be the landlords or facilities management companies that are presenting waste on behalf of the waste producer.
  - It is an offence to fail to comply with a compliance notice and enforcement action may be taken against you in line with the Environment Agency Enforcement and Sanctions Policy.

**Q How will the legislation be enforced?**

**A** From April 2025, the general-public and other parties including collection companies will be able to report workplaces that do not follow these rules to the Environment Agency.

**Q How many bins will I need?**

**A** We estimate that approx. 25% of each General Waste bin contains recyclable materials and is currently lost within residual waste, therefore we are recommending that we add 1 x 240ltr bin for Dry Mixed Recycling (plastic, metal, glass, paper and card) for every 1100ltr General (residual) waste bin, as well as 1 x 120ltr food bin.

**Q What if I need more or larger bins?**

**A** We recommend starting at 25%, but if you find once you have started to separate your waste that you need larger containers or more frequent collections, let us know and we will arrange a solution.

**Q How often will the bins be collected?**

**A** This will depend on how much recyclable material you produce and the routing of our vehicles. Bins will be emptied at least fortnightly, and this is especially important for food bins, which can generate odours or pests if left for more than two weeks.

**Q Will the separate wastes be collected in the same vehicle?**

**A** Depending on route density and if it is technically, environmentally, and economically practical we may use either a split body vehicle to collect two separate waste types in the same vehicle, or a single body vehicle will collect different types of waste on different visits. As a waste collector we have a legal duty to collect dry mixed recycling (plastic, metal, glass, paper and card) separately from residual (general waste).

**Q Will my collection times or days vary?**

**A** Your new service will be scheduled and will occur at the same frequency that we confirm when you contract the service. However, days and times are likely to be different to your current service as we and all waste collectors will have to introduce new routes and reschedule all our current collection routes. We will try to maintain as many current collection days as possible, but initially all collections may be subject to change as we build our new routes. However, rest assured we will communicate any changes to you in advance.

**Q Is student accommodation exempt as a domestic dwelling?**

**A** Following a challenge to the legislation, Defra has confirmed that student accommodations have been given until 31 March 2026 to comply in line with the requirements for local authorities. However, we would advise that it would be good practice to adopt as many of the rules as early as possible.

**Q When will services start?**

**A** The additional services are required to be in place by 31 March 2025. Due to the high demand this is placing on our resources and the significant planning required to introduce these services, we are recommending that customers contract with us as soon as possible.

**Q Do I have to pay for this new service?**

**A** Yes, as a waste contractor, we have a legal obligation to provide these additional services. The Government isn't funding the legislation so we must charge for the service. However, we will work with you to provide the most cost effective sustainable service.

**Q What if WSR Recycling cannot provide the number of collections required for my waste?**

**A** We will always aim to carry out collections on our own vehicles, however when this is not possible, we work closely with a network of trusted partners who will provide the service on our behalf.

**Q I am part of a managed site with multiple tenants, and we share waste bins. How can I prove that I am compliant?**

**A** You will need to demonstrate that you are segregating materials that you produce in line with the simpler recycling legislation and the site will need to have separate bins for recyclables and food. If it is a managed property, your managing agent or landlord or facilities manager will need to provide the containers for you to use. If you fail to segregate your waste in line with the legislation your landlord, managing agent or facilities manager will report you to the Environment Agency and you will receive a compliance notice.

**Q Will this legislation make my business more sustainable?**

**A** Yes, if you didn't segregate dry mixed recyclables or food previously, your business will now be improving its recycling performance and contributing to the circular economy.

The new rules take effect on 31 March 2025 – make sure your business is prepared. For more information email us at:

[simplerrecycling@beuparc.co.uk](mailto:simplerrecycling@beuparc.co.uk)

