



Simpler Recycling and New Regulations Explained

Practical Solutions to Manage Waste Efficiently
in-line with the Simpler Recycling legislation.

The Aim Of Simpler Recycling

Between 2000-2012, the number of UK citizens who regularly recycled grew from **11%** to **44%**.

The aim of the new Simpler Recycling Regulations is to further increase that number to **65%** by 2035.

Similar regulations in Wales have proven successful as the Workplace Recycling scheme led to a **34%** increase in recycling volumes when comparing year on year collections.



Key Dates



31 March 2025

Businesses with >10 FTEs in England are to separate recyclable materials.



31 March 2026

Local Authorities required to standardise recycling and weekly food waste collections for households.



31 March 2027

Extended to cover businesses with <10 FTEs and to include plastic bags, packaging, and film to go in the mixed recycling.

What Is Simpler Recycling?

The changes aim to reduce rates by:

Standardising and simplifying what is collected for recycling across England. ✓

Removing recyclable materials from general waste so it can be collected separately for recycling. ✓

Reducing contamination in recycling bins. ✓



Contact Our Dedicated Team

Don't hesitate to contact us – we're here to help you navigate the ever-evolving landscape of responsible waste management.

✉ hello@bsgwaste.co.uk

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☎ 0800 059 0138

Who Is Responsible?

Everyone has a part to play in making Simpler Recycling work. If a business is not separating recyclable materials from general waste, or presenting recycling containers contaminated with non-recyclable materials, the waste carrier is unable to compliantly collect.

Business

- Segregating waste and recycling correctly.
- Ensuring recycled material is not contaminated.
- Storing the materials ready for collection.
- Having all waste collected by a registered carrier.

Waste Carrier

- Providing a compliant collections service.
- Ensuring non-contamination at collection.
- Ensure correct handling of waste.

Enforcer

- Environment Agency.
- Penalties for repeated non-compliance or contamination may include fines for the producer.

Legislator

- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DERFA)
- The relevant legislation in the Environment Act 2021 has now come into force.



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What's Changing?

If a business produces any of the listed recyclable materials, **regardless of quantity**, they will need to be segregated and collected separately from general waste.

As part of the regulations, the recycling acceptance list has been standardised across England and expanded to allow for more materials. Below is the current list of items included within the Simpler Recycling regulations.



Plastic Waste

- Plastic bottles
- Pots, Tubs & Trays
- Empty cartons for food and drink

- OE & PP Plastic Tubes (Larger than 40mm x 40mm)
- Plastic bags, packing and film (from 2027)

✓ Recycling Bin



Paper and Card Waste

- Office Paper
- Newspaper
- Cardboard

- Paperboard
- Magazines

✓ Recycling Bin



Food Waste

- Plate Scrapings
- Tea Bags
- Coffee Grinds

- Peelings and Off-Cuts
- Unusable Food Waste

✓ Food Waste Bin



Glass Waste

- Glass Bottles
- Glass Jars

not Accepted:

- Mirrors
- Drinking glasses
- Light bulbs

✓ Glass Waste Bin



Metal Waste

- Steel and Aluminium Tins and Cans
- Aluminium Foil and Food Trays

- Steel and Aluminium Jars and Bottle Lids
- Empty, Non-Toxic Aerosol Cans

✓ Recycling Bin

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Dry Mixed Recycling



- Mixed recycling collections will continue using the well established container and collection system.
- This includes metal tins, cans, recyclable plastic, paper, and cardboard.
- Paper and cardboard can be compliantly stored in a DMR bin and collected using existing collection systems.

For businesses who produce high volumes of cardboard, separate collections will be made.

Food Waste



- Unlike Scotland and Wales, Simpler Recycling rules give **no minimum quantity** of food waste before a business needs to separate and arrange a collection.
- Many Waste Operators have adapted their container ranges to accommodate small quantities of food waste and a caddy service.

Glass Recycling



- Some Waste Operators will begin to offer separate collections of glass, however, others will be offering a single collection of mixed recycling including glass.
- This will increase the health and safety risks for both the business producing the waste and the waste operator, as it will increase the risk of exposure to sharp objects for everyone involved.

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What is Contamination?



Contamination means that a bin **contains materials that don't belong there.**

In a recycling bin, this can mean non-recyclable materials that haven't been cleaned or emptied properly.

If a general waste bin contains food waste or recyclable materials, then it is considered contaminated.

How To Prevent Contamination?

- Separate internal bins
- Put up clear signage
- Communicate changes
- Recyclables should be clean, dry, and loose
- Keep bins consistent across sites
- Educating staff/volunteers with waste training

What Happens If My Bins Are Contaminated?

General Waste

- 1 The provider will identify the contamination.
- 2 You will be notified and the provider will help you make necessary changes.
- 3 Persistent contamination will result in missed collections.

Recycling

- 1 The provider will identify the contamination and won't accept the bin.
- 2 Your business will be notified of the missed collection.
- 3 A new collection must be arranged for a future date.

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Are you interested?

If you are interested in the information presented in this brochure, please contact us in one of the following ways:

Call us on: 0800 059 0138

Email us: hello@bsgwaste.co.uk

Or contact us through our website:
bsgwaste.co.uk/

Alternatively, book a Consultation with one of our Waste Specialists!

[Book a Consultation](#)

