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Simpler Recycling 2027

Regulations Explained

A practical guide to preparing your business for the 2027 Simpler Recycling requirements.



The Aim of Simpler Recycling

Simpler Recycling aims to make recycling more consistent across England, helping to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill or incineration.

The changes will support the Government's ambition to recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

From 31 March 2027, micro-businesses will need to follow the same workplace recycling requirements already in place for larger organisations.



By 31 March 2027...

Micro-businesses with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees must comply with Simpler Recycling requirements.

This means having separate collections for:

- Food waste
- Non-recyclable waste
- Dry recyclables – including paper, card, plastic, metal and glass
- Plastic film and bags, which join the plastic recycling stream from 31 March 2027

The changes aim to improve 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.



Get in Touch Today

Don't hesitate to contact our team, we're here to help you comply with Simpler Recycling!

0800 989 0144

hello@reducemycosts.co.uk

What's Changing?

The Simpler Recycling requirements apply to all workplaces in England, including businesses that produce very little waste. If you produce any of the listed materials, they must be separated from general waste and collected for recycling.

This includes food waste, regardless of how little you produce. You do not need to operate a commercial kitchen, prepare food or serve customers food for the requirement to apply. Everyday waste such as tea bags, coffee grounds, fruit peel and staff lunch leftovers counts as food waste and must be separated from general waste.



Plastic Waste

✓ Recycling Bin

- Plastic bottles
- Pots, tubs & trays
- Empty cartons for food and drink
- PE & PP plastic tubes (larger than 40mm x 40mm)
- Plastic bags, packing and film (from 31 March 2027)



Paper and Card Waste

✓ Recycling Bin

- Office paper
- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Paperboard
- Magazines



Metal Waste

✓ Recycling Bin

- Steel and aluminium tins and cans
- Aluminium foil and food trays
- Steel and aluminium jars and bottle lids
- Empty, non-toxic aerosol cans



Food Waste

✓ Food Waste Bin

- Plate scrapings
- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds
- Peelings and off-cuts
- Unusable food waste



Glass Waste

✓ Glass Waste Bin

- Glass bottles
- Glass jars

Not Accepted:

- Mirrors
- Drinking glasses
- Light bulbs

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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 collect compliantly.

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.
- Ensuring the 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 (DEFRA)
- The relevant legislation in the Environment Act 2021 has now come into force.

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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 or items that haven't been cleaned or emptied properly.

If a general waste bin contains food waste or recyclable materials, it may also be considered contaminated. Businesses are responsible for correctly separating their waste under Simpler Recycling, and failure to comply with the requirements could result in enforcement action, including fines.

What Happens if Bins Are Contaminated?

1. Your waste provider may identify incorrect materials within a waste stream during collection or processing.
2. You may be informed of the contamination and advised on what needs to change.
3. If contamination is significant, the bin may not be collected and another collection may need to be arranged.
4. Persistent contamination could result in additional collections or charges, depending on your waste provider.

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 and volunteers with waste training

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Get Ready for Simpler Recycling 2027

If you would like support preparing your business for the Simpler Recycling 2027 deadline, please contact us using the details below.

Call us on:
0800 989 0144

Email us:
hello@reducemycosts.co.uk

Or visit our website:
reducemycosts.co.uk



Book a free consultation with our specialists to discuss your Simpler Recycling requirements.