



AFFORDABLE
WASTE MANAGEMENT

SIMPLER RECYCLING GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES

Helping Your Business Stay Compliant with
New Waste Separation Rules in England



A practical guide for UK businesses preparing for
the 2025 recycling regulations

#SimplerRecycling

affordablewastemanagement.co.uk

What is Simpler Recycling?

Simpler Recycling is a UK government initiative designed to standardise waste collection across England.

It requires businesses and households to separate key recyclable waste streams to improve recycling rates and reduce contamination.

The regulations introduce consistent collections for:

- Food waste
- Glass
- Metal
- Plastic
- Paper & Cardboard



Implementation Timeline

31

March 31, 2025

All workplaces in England with **10 or more employees** must separate and recycle the required waste streams.

31

March 31, 2027

Micro-firms (fewer than 10 employees) must comply. **Plastic film collections** will also become mandatory.

Who is affected by Simpler Recycling?

A workplace includes any business or non-domestic premises generating household:

- Offices
- Retail & wholesale businesses
- Transport locations (airports, train stations)
- Hospitality businesses such as cafes, restaurants and hotels

This list is not exhaustive. If your business generates waste similar to household waste, the regulations



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Understanding Recyclable Waste Streams



FOOD WASTE

- Fruit peelings and scraps
- Vegetable peelings and trimmings
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags
- Plate scrapings
- Cooked and uncooked food
- Meat, bones and fish

Food waste includes biodegradable food materials generated during preparation or consumption. All food waste must be collected separately and must not be disposed of with general waste or recycling streams.



PAPER & CARD

- Office paper
- Cardboard boxes
- Paper packaging
- Paper bags
- Paper food cartons

Paper and cardboard must be clean and dry and free from contamination such as food, liquids or plastics. Items with plastic coating, wax layers or glitter are not accepted in this waste stream.



GLASS

- Wine bottles
- Beer bottles
- Soft drink bottles
- Jam jars
- Sauce bottles
- Coffee jars

Only glass packaging containers are accepted. Items such as mirrors, ceramics, Pyrex or window glass must not be placed in glass recycling bins.



Understanding Recyclable Waste Streams



METAL

Examples:

- Aluminium drinks cans
- Steel food cans
- Aerosol cans
- Aluminium foil trays
- Aluminium foil packaging



Metal packaging includes both steel and aluminium containers. All items should be empty and free from food residue before disposal.

PLASTIC



Examples:

- Water bottles
- Soft drink bottles
- Yogurt pots
- Food trays
- Plastic tubs
- Plastic tubes (e.g. toothpaste tubes)



Common recyclable plastics include PET, PP, HDPE and LDPE.

Items should be clean, empty and free from food contamination before being placed in recycling bins.



Waste Segregation Containers



GLASS WASTE

Separate collection required.



FOOD WASTE

Must always be collected separately.



GENERAL WASTE

For non-recyclable waste only.

Can be collected separately or



PAPER & CARD



DRY MIXED RECYCLING (DMR)

Plastics, Metals and Paper/Card



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Simpler Recycling FAQ



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Simpler Recycling FAQ

Key compliance questions for businesses

? What is meant by 'household-like' waste?

Waste that is produced during the course of business that is similar in nature and composition to household waste.

It includes:

- Food waste from kitchens or canteens (food scraps)
- General non-recyclable waste (black bin bag waste)
- Dry recyclables such as paper and card (newspapers, magazines, boxes)
- Plastic, metal and glass containers (bottles, cans, jars)



! Important

This category does not include bulky or construction waste.

? Who is responsible for ensuring separate collections from workplaces?

The duty is shared.

Workplaces must:

- arrange for recyclable waste streams to be collected separately
- present waste according to the collection arrangements



! Collections must be arranged by:

or **31 March 2027** for micro-firms (fewer than 10 FTE employees).

Waste collectors must:

- Ensure their services comply with the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**.
- This requires:
 - recyclable waste streams collected separately from residual waste
 - organic waste collected separately from any recyclables

Simpler Recycling FAQ

Key compliance questions for businesses

? How are micro-firms calculated for the purposes of the exemption?

A business is a **micro-firm** if the number of **full-time equivalent employees (FTE)** is **FTE fewer than 10**.

To determine this, businesses must **add together**:



Full-time employees



Part-time employees

converted to **FTE** based on pro-rata hours worked during the **12-week qualifying period**

Example

Your business employs:



6 full-time employees working **37 hours** per week



6 part-time employees working **18 hours** per week



1 employee worked only **2 weeks**

Part-time calculation

For **4 employees** (12 weeks)

216 hours = 12 weeks
= **18 hrs/week**

$18 \div 37 = \mathbf{0.48\ FTE}$



For **1 employees** (2 weeks only)



36 hours = 2 weeks
= **0.48 FTE**

Total

$(0.48 \times 5 = 2.4) + 6$ full-time staff



= **8.4 FTE**

B This business qualifies as a micro-firm

? Is there a minimum volume required for the collection of food waste?

No. There is no minimum volume for food waste collections.

All workplaces producing food waste **must arrange separate collection** in line with the Simpler Recycling requirements.

This applies:

- Regardless of the amount of food waste produced
- To all workplaces
- Not only to businesses that serve food or have catering facilities.



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Simpler Recycling FAQ

Key compliance questions for businesses

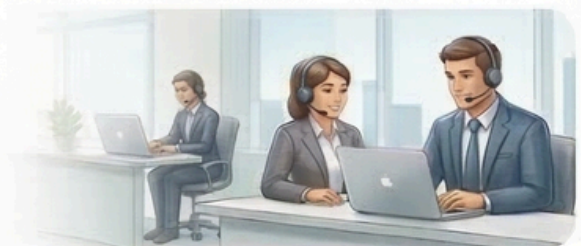
? Where can I find more information?

- [The Environmental Protection Act 1990 and amendments under the Waste \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2011.](#)
- [Official guidance from Defra on Simpler Recycling: Simpler Recycling in England policy update - GOV.UK](#)
- Your AWM account manager or customer support representative.



What actions do I need to take?

- ✓ **Audit your current waste management practices.**
Ensure you understand what waste is being generated and how it is disposed of. Take a note of what Recyclable Waste Streams are being produced and how much per week.
- ✓ **Update your recycling bins and signage.**
Clearly label bins for each type of recyclable material.
- ✓ **Communicate with employees and customers.**
Train them on how to correctly use the updated recycling system.
- ✓ **Contact AWM.**
Verify that your existing service complies with Simpler Recycling requirements and make necessary amendments to comply.



Simpler Recycling FAQ

Key compliance questions for businesses



How can Affordable Waste Management help your business?

- Expert advice on meeting Simpler Recycling standards
- Flexible waste management solutions tailored to your needs
- Nationwide coverage
- 200+ licensed waste contractors
- A support team that's always on your side

Contact us for assistance:

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