

Recycling your batteries from home – BGCBC

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the battery collection service?

In 2015, we introduced a free weekly collection for your household batteries, which enables you to put out your old batteries in a small clear plastic bag to be recycled.

Because many of you use this service, we want to make it even easier for you to recycle all you can from home. Therefore, we're offering you a free new small, reusable white bag to use to put out your batteries for us to collect, instead of using your own single-use plastic bags.

Between Monday 20 March and Friday 14 April, we've been delivering to you an information leaflet telling you how to use this improved service.

We will collect the contents of your white bag every week, alongside your other recycling, on your usual collection day.

How should I use the battery collection service?

1. Collect your new small, reusable white bag for batteries from your nearest Community Hub, which is located centrally in all local libraries managed by the Aneurin Leisure Trust. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/blaenau-gwent-community-hubs/>
2. From **Monday 17 April 2023**, when you need to get rid of any household batteries, put them in your new bag. (Please no longer use your own single-use plastic bags or any other container to put out your batteries for us to collect.)
3. Close the flap on your bag then place it next to – or between – your other recycling containers before 7am on your usual collection day.
4. Collect your recycling containers from your collection point once we've emptied them.

What types of batteries may I put in my new bag?

You may put in your bag all old or wanted household batteries, such as **AAA, AA, B, C, D, DD and 9V** batteries.

What types of batteries should I not put in my new bag?

Please don't put the following types of batteries in your bag for us to collect:

- Lithium-ion 'button' batteries, such as those used in calculators, hearing aids and watches
- E-cigarette and vape pen batteries
- Chargeable batteries from laptops, mobile phones, power tools and vacuum cleaners
- Car batteries
- Battery chargers

If you need to get rid of these types of batteries, please take them to your **local Recycling Centre**.

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/waste-recycling/visit-a-recycling-centre/>

Why are you collecting batteries separately to other recyclable materials?

When batteries are recycled with other recyclable materials, such as plastics and cans, they can explode or cause fires, which is dangerous for our staff, causes damage to recycling processing equipment, and is bad for the environment.

[Click here to find out more about the dangers of collecting batteries mixed with other materials.](#)

What happens to my batteries once you collect them?

Once collected, your old batteries will be sorted then shredded to recover the raw materials used to make them, including nickel, zinc, cadmium and lithium. These materials will be recycled to create new products, such as electronics or new batteries. The recovered lithium could even be used to power electric cars!

What are the benefits of introducing this new bag for my batteries?

- It will increase the amount of recycling we collect from you by making it easier for you to recycle more of your waste from home.

- It is safer to collect batteries separately from other materials. When batteries are recycled with other recyclable materials, such as plastics and cans, they can explode or cause fires, which is dangerous for our staff, causes damage to recycling processing equipment, and is bad for the environment.
- It will reduce our need for single-use plastic bags, which is better for the environment.
- When we recycle our batteries and they become new products, such as electronics or new batteries, we use less energy compared to using 'new' or 'virgin' materials to create these items, which reduces our carbon emissions and helps prevent climate change.
- It will be in-line with the advised approach for all recycling and non-recyclable waste collections across Wales set by Welsh Government, which will help us meet its target of recycling 70% of all our waste by 2025.

If it's windy, how can I stop my bag from blowing away on my collection day?

If possible, please 'wedge' your bag between your other recycling containers. Please also remember to close your bag's flap to prevent its contents from escaping.

Why is the bag you've provided for the battery collection service small?

You shouldn't need to put out for collection each week more batteries than you can fit in your new bag. However, if you feel you need an extra bag, you may collect one from your nearest Community Hub, which is located centrally in all local libraries managed by Aneurin Leisure Trust. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/blaenau-gwent-community-hubs/>

How may I collect a replacement bag if mine is lost or broken?

You may collect a replacement bag from your nearest Community Hub, which is located centrally in all local libraries managed by Aneurin Leisure Trust. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/blaenau-gwent-community-hubs/>

What should I do if I have more bags than I need?

You should only have one bag for your batteries, but if you do have more than you need, please give it to a family member or friend that might want it or return it to your nearest Community Hub, which is located centrally in all local libraries managed by Aneurin Leisure Trust. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/blaenau-gwent-community-hubs/>

Why are you not delivering my new bag to my home? Why must I collect it?

We understand that not all residents use this service and some may choose to recycle their batteries at out of home recycling points at locations such as supermarkets instead, therefore they might prefer not to receive and store an additional recycling container.

If you would like to use this new service, please collect your new small, reusable white bag for batteries from your nearest Community Hub, which is located centrally in all local libraries managed by the Aneurin Leisure Trust. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/blaenau-gwent-community-hubs/>

How should I correctly dispose of old e-cigarettes and vape pens?

E-cigarettes and vape pens contain many different parts and should be recycled alongside other small electrical items.

If you need to get rid of any old e-cigarette and vape pens, put them in a clear plastic bag alongside any other unwanted small electrical items, tie the bag securely, then place it on top of your Troliboc on your usual collection day for us to collect.

What else can I recycle in Blaenau Gwent?

For more information about what you can and can't recycle where you live, click here. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/waste-recycling/how-to-recycle-correctly/>

You may also recycle a wide range of materials at your local Recycling Centre. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/waste-recycling/visit-a-recycling-centre/>

Your recycling is making a BIG difference in Blaenau Gwent. THANK YOU for continuing to do the right thing and for doing your bit for the environment, by sorting your waste and recycling what you can.