# Your Recycling and Non-recyclable Waste Collection Services







To make it as easy as possible for you to dispose of your waste responsibly from home, we provide you with **separate containers** to sort your recycling from your non-recyclable waste.

- We collect all your recycling from your home every week, including food waste.
- We collect your non-recyclable waste from your home every three weeks.

To check your collection dates, visit our website.



# What are the benefits of recycling our waste?

#### **✓** Saving energy and our planet

When we recycle our waste and it becomes new items, we use less energy compared to using 'new' or 'virgin' materials, which reduces our carbon emissions and helps prevent climate change.



#### **✓** Improving the quality of recycling

By collecting your recycling in separate containers, it improves the quality of the recycling we collect from you. This means more of it will remain within the UK to be recycled, which is better for the environment.



#### Making savings

When people put recyclable materials in their black bin or black bags, we pay more to get rid of these items that could have been recycled. This means we have less to spend on other important services.



#### Achieving recycling targets

The services we provide are 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.



## Why else should I recycle?

- It's easy. In fact, it's right on your doorstep and doesn't take much time or effort.
- It's cleaner. Recycling is collected weekly, leftover non-recyclable waste isn't, and so it'll be taken away sooner.
- It's nicer for your local environment, your community, and our planet.
- It's the right thing to do.

# How should I present my recycling and non-recyclable waste to be collected?

- Put the correct items in the correct containers. (See pages 4 to 14 for 'what goes where?')
- 2. Tie your liners and single-use sacks securely.
- 3. Close the flaps and lids on your bags, bins, boxes and caddies.
- Place your containers at your collection point before 7am on your collection day.
- Collect your recycling containers from your collection point once we've emptied them.



#### How may I get more support?

#### Contact us to find out:

- how to order for free the recycling containers you need, if you don't already have them or they've become lost
- the day of the week we collect your recycling and non-recyclable waste
- what else you can and can't recycle
- what other support or extra services we can give you to help you sort your waste and recycle correctly. We're here to help if you have any questions

#### Food waste









#### Yes please

- Used teabags and coffee grounds
- Eggshells
- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Raw and cooked meat and fish, including bones
- Plate scrapings
- ✓ Leftovers that can't be safely stored to eat later
- ✓ Food that's no longer safe to eat

#### Please remember to:

- use your Council-provided caddy and liners. If you don't have any Councilissued caddy liners, you may reuse any single-use plastic bags you might have, including supermarket carrier bags (not Bags for Life), bread bags, sandwich bags, cereal bags, frozen food bags, potato/vegetable or fruit bags
- tie your food waste liners or bags securely, and close the lid on your food waste caddy

#### 🗶 No thank you

- Packaging of any kind
- Liquids such as milk \*
- Liquid oils or fats \*\*
- Any material that's not food waste
  - \* You may pour small amounts of liquid food or drinks down the sink, ideally alongside a small amount of water to ensure the waste runs away easily, without causing blockages.
- \*\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre in a suitable container. If you need to get rid of any fats that are solid or only part-liquid, please put these in your black bin or black bags.





#### Yes please

- Letters
- Envelopes, with and without windows
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- ✓ Brochures and catalogues
- Printer paper
- Small quantities of shredded paper, such as receipts and household bills (please put this in a clear plastic bag and tie it securely, before putting it in your box for paper)

#### Please remember to:

- keep paper dry
- use only the Council-provided box. Do not use any other type of container, including any single-use plastic bags

#### X No thank you

- X Kitchen roll, paper towels or tissues \*
- X Scratch cards \*
- Sticky papers such as Post-it notes, sticky labels or paper tape \*
- Wallpaper \*
- Wrapping paper \*
- X Food, oil, grease or paintcontaminated paper \*
- Wet paper of any kind \*
- Brown or grey paper \*\*
  - \* Please put these items in your black bin or black bags.
- \*\* Please put these items in your white bag for cardboard.

Mixed metals and plastics





#### Yes please

#### Metals

- Drinks cans, such as those used for beer and soft drinks
- ✓ Food tins, such as those used for beans and soup
- Metal chocolate and biscuit tins, and their lids
- Empty aerosols
- ✓ Clean foil sheets and trays

#### Cartons

Food and drink cartons, such as Tetra Pak, used for fruit juice, milk and soup

#### ×

#### No thank you

#### Metals

Crisp packets \*

Food and drink cartons, such as Tetra Pak

- Foil sweet wrappers \*
- Food and drink laminated foil pouches, such as those used for coffee, juice, rice, baby food or pet food \*
- E-cigarette or vape pens \*\*
  - \* If you need to get rid of these items, see page 15.
- \*\* If you need to get rid of these items, see page 11 ('Small electrical items').

#### Please remember to:

- remove any pumps from toiletry bottles and put these in your black bin or black bags
- remove any plastic film or absorbent pads and put these in your black bin or black bags
- empty and rinse metal and plastic items
- safely squash metal and plastic items to make them smaller, if possible
- ensure aerosols are empty
- ensure foil is clean

#### Mixed metals and plastics continued...





#### Yes please

#### **Plastics**

- Plastic skincare and toiletry bottles, such as those used for hand wash, body wash, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner and bubble bath
- ✓ Plastic cleaning product bottles, such as those used for bleach, washing-up liquid, laundry detergent and fabric conditioner, and tubs that hold laundry washing capsules and tablets
- Plastic drinks bottles, such as those used for soft drinks, milk and water
- Plastic pots, such as cream and yoghurt pots
- Plastic tubs, such as butter, margarine, chocolate, sweet and ice cream tubs
- Plastic trays, such as cake, muffin and meat trays
- Plastic punnets, such as fruit and vegetable punnets
- ✓ Plastic takeaway trays and lids
- Plastic bottles from your garage, greenhouse or shed, such as nontoxic liquid plant food bottles

#### 🗶 No thank you

#### **Plastics**

- Plastic bags and wrapping (see page 15)
- ✗ Black or brown plastic items \*\*\*
- Netting used to package fruit and vegetables \*\*\*
- Cat and dog dry food bags \*\*\*
- Garden compost and topsoil bags \*\*\*
- Blister packs, that is the plastic packaging used for tablets and capsules \*\*\*
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes \*\*\*
- X Plastic razors \*\*\*
- ✗ Hard plastics, such as garden chairs, children's toys, kitchen bins, washing-up bowls, plant pots or Tupperware containers \*\*\*\*
- X Lighters \*\*\*
- X Gas canisters \*\*\*\*
- \*\*\* Please put these items in your black bin or black bags.
- \*\*\*\* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

#### Glass bottles and jars





#### Yes please

- ✓ Glass bottles, such as those used for beer, wine and soft drinks
- ✓ Glass jars, such as those used for baby food and sauces
- ✓ Non-food and drink glass bottles and jars, such as those used for perfume, aftershave and face creams

#### Please remember to:

- empty and rinse glass items
- remove any metal or plastic caps or lids and put these in your box for mixed metals and plastics
- use only the Council-provided box. Do not use any other type of container, including any single-use plastic bags

#### No thank you

- Ceramics or china\*
- Drinking glasses\*
- Flat glass, such as windowpanes\*
- Mirrors\*
- Light bulbs\*
- ✗ Glass cookware, such as Pyrex\*
- Microwave plates\*
- Vases\*
- Nail varnish bottles\*
- Broken glass\*
  - \* Please wrap these items safely in old newspaper or kitchen roll, or double-bag them, to ensure crews aren't harmed when collecting them, then put them in your black bin or black bags, or take them to your local Recycling Centre.

#### **Cardboard**







#### Yes please

- Cardboard boxes, such as those used for cereals, cakes, dishwasher tablets, shoes, tissues, toiletries, and toothpaste
- ✓ Toilet roll tubes
- Egg cartons
- Card sleeves used to package foods, including ready-meals and multipacks
- Greeting cards that don't have badges, bows, foil, glitter or ribbons
- Cardboard backing from packs of batteries and toothbrushes
- Online delivery boxes and cardboard envelopes
- Brown and grey paper

#### X No thank you

- Food, oil, grease or paint contaminated cardboard, such as pizza boxes \*
- Greeting cards that have badges, bows, foil, glitter or ribbons that can't be removed \*
- Wrapping paper \*
- Polystyrene \*
- Food and drink cartons, such as Tetra Pak, used for fruit juice, milk or soup \*\*
  - \* Please put these items in your black bin or black bags.
- \*\* Please put these items in your box for mixed metals and plastics.

#### Please remember to:

- flatten and cut cardboard into small pieces to ensure it fits in your white bag for cardboard
- keep cardboard dry
- use only the Council-provided bag. Do not use any other type of container, including any single-use plastic bags
- take any cardboard that doesn't fit in your white bag to your local Recycling Centre

#### **Household batteries**





#### Yes please

Household batteries, such as AAA, AA, B, C, D, DD and 9V batteries



#### No thank you

- X Lithium-ion 'button' batteries, such as those used in calculators, hearing aids or watches \*
- E-cigarette or vape pen batteries \*
- Chargeable batteries from laptops, mobile phones, power tools or vacuum cleaners \*
- X Car batteries \*
- X Battery chargers \*
  - \* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

#### Please remember to:

use your Council-provided bag. If you don't have the Council-issued bag, you may collect one from your nearest Community Hub, which is located centrally in all local libraries managed by the Aneurin Leisure Trust. Or you may put your old batteries out for collection in single-use plastic bags, if you have any to use up.

#### **Textiles**





#### Plastic carrier bag



#### Yes please

- Adults and children's clothing
- Shoes
- ✓ Towels
- Bed sheets

#### ×

#### No thank you

- Duvets or quilts \*
- X Pillows \*
- ✗ Sleeping bags \*
- Cushion inners \*
- Carpets \*
  - \* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

#### **Small electrical items**





#### **Plastic carrier bag**



#### Yes please

- Kettles
- Hairdryers
- Toasters
- Power tools
- ✓ Radios
- ✓ Irons
- ✓ E-cigarette and vape pens

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#### 🕻 No thank you

- Electric clothes airers \*
- X Televisions \*
- ✗ Vacuum cleaners \*
- X Microwaves \*
- Fridges or freezers \*
- \* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.

#### Please remember to:

- ensure textiles are clean and dry, and shoes are in pairs
- put clean textiles and small electrical items in separate clear 'plastic bags, tie them securely, mark your bags either 'textiles' or 'small electrical items', then place them on top of your Troliboc



#### Absorbent hygiene products

**Contact us** to sign up service











Yellow sack with black stripes



#### Yes please

- Nappies, nappy bags and wipes
- Incontinence pads
- Colostomy and stoma baas

#### Please remember to:

use only the Council-provided single-use yellow sacks. Do not use any other type of container

#### No thank you

- X Clinical waste, such as single-use dressings, face masks, aprons or gloves \*
- Medical equipment, such as needles, sharps or syringes \*\*
- Catheter bags or plastic tubes \*
- Wrine bottles \*
- X Disposable bed pans or liners \*
- Bed or chair pads \*
- X Sanitary waste, such as tampons or towels \*
- X Animal faeces \*
- Puppy training pads \*
- \* Please double-bag these items then put them in your black bin or black bags.
- \*\* Please contact your local health board on 0300 123 9208 to arrange a collection for these items.

#### Garden waste





#### Yes please

- Grass, leaves and most weeds
- Plants and flowers
- Shrub cuttings and hedge clippings

#### Please remember:

- we collect garden waste between April and November
- to use only the Council-provided green bag. You may put out up to four green bags every two weeks. Do not use any other type of container, including any single-use plastic bags or tonne bulk bags

#### ×

#### No thank you

- ✗ Soil, stones or logs \*
- Invasive weeds, such as Japanese knotweed or Ragwort \*\*
- ✗ Animal faeces \*\*\*
- Pet bedding such as hay, straw or wood shavings \*\*\*
- Any garden furniture, whether plastic or wooden \*
  - \* Please take these items to your local Recycling Centre.
- \*\* Please contact us to arrange for a specialist contractor to collect this waste and dispose of it safely.
- \*\*\* Please bag this then put it in your black bin or black bags.

#### Non-recyclable waste





#### Yes please

- ✓ Black or brown plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- ✓ Polystyrene
- ✓ All remaining household waste that can't be recycled \*
  - \* If you need to get rid of items such as plastic bags and wrapping, see page 15 to find out how you can recycle these at out of home recycling points at locations such as supermarkets.



#### 🗶 No thank you

X Any items that can be recycled from home using your Council-provided containers, or those that can be recycled at your local Recycling Centre

#### Please remember:

- to use only the Council-provided black bin. If you don't have a black bin, you may put out up to four black bags every three weeks. Do not use any other type of container
- if you buy black bags, ensure they don't exceed a 60-litre capacity
- not to put out additional waste alongside your black bin or four black bags. This is known as 'side waste'. We do not collect 'side waste' and you may have to pay a fine

# What should I do with plastic bags and wrapping?

If you need to get rid of any **plastic bags or wrapping**, some of these items are accepted at **out of home recycling points** at locations such as supermarkets.

Visit walesrecycles.org.uk to find your nearest facility.

The types of items accepted may vary between different locations, therefore please follow the guidance provided by the organisation managing the recycling point.

If you're unable to take these items to one of these facilities and you need to dispose of these at home, please put them in your **black bin or black bags for non-recyclable waste**.



Carrier bags and Bags for Life



Ready-packed fruit, salad and vegetable bags



Thin plastic bags for loose fruit, salad and vegetable items



Film, such as cling film, ready meal lids or yoghurt pot lids



Freezer bags



Frozen food bags



Pasta and rice bags



**Bread bags** 



Magazine and newspaper wrapping



Multipack wrapping and rings from bottle and can multipacks



**Cereal box liners** 



Wrapping from toilet and kitchen roll packs



Dry cleaning bags and bags covering new clothing



Parcel bags and bubble wrap



Packaging and sticky tape



Crisp packets and biscuit wrappers



Food and drink laminated foil pouches, such as those used for coffee, juice, rice, baby food or pet food

Do not put plastic bags and wrapping in your recycling container for plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays.

#### What other services or support do you offer?

#### **Bulky waste collections**

If you have large household items and appliances you no longer need and are unable to visit one of our Recycling Centres, you may book a bulky household waste collection for a small fee. We're able to collect items such as fridges, freezers, televisions, mattresses, and chairs.

To book a bulky waste collection, visit our website.

#### Waste Warden home visits

We have a team of Waste Wardens that can give you advice and guidance about all our recycling and non-recyclable waste services, and support you to maximise your recycling and minimise your non-recyclable waste by helping you to sort your waste correctly.

#### **Recycling Centres**

You may recycle many different materials at your local Recycling Centre that we're unable to collect from your home, such as bedding and mattresses, large electrical items, plasterboard, CDs, carpets, oil, gas bottles and rubble.

Please note: If you take any filled black bags to your local Recycling Centre, we will ask you to open these to ensure they contain only non-recyclable waste.

To find out about your local Recycling Centre, as well as any information you need to know before you visit, go to our website.

#### Repairing your broken items

If you have a broken item, you could find a local repair business through our online repair directory, at

www.repairefficiencywales.co.uk.

This website also allows you to search for events in your area where you might get your broken item repaired for free by volunteers.

By repairing your items instead of buying new, you reduce your carbon emissions and help prevent climate change, as well as save money.

#### Reusing your unwanted items

If you need to get rid of items you no longer need but are in good condition, you may take these to your local Recycling Centre to be reused.

Our team of attendants and volunteers will ensure the items you donate are safe and in good working order, before cleaning them then putting them up for sale at The Den Reuse Shop, which is located at the Recycling Centre at Roseheyworth Business Park. For more information, visit our website...

#### **Assisted collections**

If you're temporarily or permanently unable to put out your recycling and non-recyclable waste for us to collect, due to you having limited mobility, and there is no one else to help you, you may apply for an 'assisted collection' and we will assess your situation.

An 'assisted collection' is when our crews collect your recycling and non-recyclable waste from an agreed collection point.

## Frequently asked questions

## What happens to my recycling once you collect it?

To find out what happens to your recycling once we collect it, please visit

#### www.myrecyclingwales.org.uk

To find out what your recycling becomes, please visit **www.walesrecycles.org.uk** 

#### What will happen if I don't recycle my waste?

Most people in Blaenau Gwent sort their waste and recycle what they can – thanks to those of you that are doing your bit. But sadly, a few people aren't doing all they could be, and could have to pay a fixed penalty of £100 or appear in court.

#### Why have you not collected the contents of my recycling container?

If your container includes items that shouldn't be there, our crews will place a sticker or tag on it asking you to sort its contents in time for your next collection. Or you may choose to take it to your local Recycling Centre.

## Why have you not emptied the contents of my black bin, or collected my black bags?

If you've put out additional waste alongside your black bin or four black bags, we won't collect it. This is known as 'side waste'. We do not collect 'side waste' and you may have to pay a fine.

If your black bin or black bags are too full or too heavy, our crews will place a sticker or tag on your container asking you to sort its contents in time for your next collection. Or you may choose to take it to your local Recycling Centre.

## Why have you collected some of my recycling and non-recyclable waste, but not all of it?

Whilst we collect your recycling and non-recyclable waste on the same day, we collect them in separate vehicles, at different times between 7am and 3pm.

Please don't report any missed collections until after 3pm and check our website or social media accounts for information about any disruptions to our collection services.

And please remember, whilst we collect all your recycling every week, we collect your garden waste every two weeks and your non-recyclable waste every three weeks. To check your collection dates, visit our website.

## What happens if I have more recycling or non-recyclable waste than I can fit in my containers?

If you have more recycling or non-recyclable waste than you can fit in your containers, please either hold onto these items until your next collection or take them to your local Recycling Centre.

If you'd like additional recycling containers, you may order these by visiting our website.

## What if I don't have any food waste caddy liners?

If you don't have any Council-issued caddy liners, you may reuse any single-use plastic bags you might have, including supermarket carrier bags (not Bags for Life), bread bags, sandwich bags, cereal bags, frozen food bags, potato/vegetable or fruit bags.

#### Your notes and reminders

Please feel free to use this space to write your own notes or reminders for your recycling and non-recyclable waste collection services.

#### Your recycling makes 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.

- www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/resident/waste-recycling 🚺 blaenaugwentcbc

🔀 info@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

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01495 311556

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