

New Simpler Recycling Legislation - A Guide on What You Need to Know

The UK Government is introducing the Simpler Recycling legislation to improve waste management across businesses which comes into effect from 31st March 2025. This guide explains what you need to know as a business owner to ensure compliance and make the most of the new system.

Effective Date: **31st March 2025**

Key resource: WRAP Business Recycling (recycling guide, waste calculator and resources)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england#separating-recyclable-waste>

What Is the Simpler Recycling Legislation?

The Simpler Recycling legislation is designed to standardise recycling practices across all businesses in the UK. By making recycling processes clearer and more uniform, the goal is to:

- Increase recycling rates.
 - Reduce contamination of recyclable materials.
 - Simplify waste management requirements.
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Key Changes to Note

1. **Mandatory Separation of Waste** From 31st March 2025, all businesses must separate recyclable materials from general waste. This includes:
 - Paper and Cardboard
 - Plastics
 - Glass
 - Metal
 - Food Waste
 2. **Internal & External Bins & Clear Labelling:** Businesses must ensure the correct bins are used internally and then have a waste collection service in place for any additional waste streams not currently being collected. This may mean that you need to arrange for additional bins both internally and externally and ensure these are clearly labelled. No set colours for bins are currently being enforced.
 3. **Waste Collections Services:** You must make sure that the company is [registered on the Public Register of Waste Carriers, Brokers and Dealers](#).
 4. **Record-Keeping Requirements** Businesses will need to keep records of their waste management practices, including:
 - Quantities of waste recycled.
 - Details of waste collection providers.
 - Compliance certificates (where applicable).
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5. **Support for Small Businesses** Small businesses will have access to government-funded grants to help with the transition, including purchasing new bins and training staff.
6. **Micro-firm exemption until 31 March 2027** Micro-firms are workplaces with less than 10 full-time employees in total. This relates to the total number of full time or full-time equivalent employees in a business, rather than in a certain business location. For example, if a business has 3 locations with 5 employees in each location, they have a total of 15 employees. For counting part-time employees, add a fraction based on their pro-rated hours.
7. **Legal requirements for workplaces.** Businesses and non-domestic premises have a legal duty to take all reasonable steps to apply the waste hierarchy and the [duty of care](#) in line with Simpler Recycling. If you do not comply with these requirements by 31 March 2025 (or 31 March 2027 for micro firms), you are at risk of receiving a compliance notice from the Environment Agency.
8. **Support for workplaces and waste collectors.** Businesses will continue to pay for their own waste management services. However, Defra will be providing advice and guidance for workplaces as they move to these new recycling rules.
9. **Waste and Resources Action Programme.** Defra has funded the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to develop the [Business of Recycling Website](#). This provides guidance and resources for specific business sectors and non-domestic premises such as schools and hospitals, on how to make the changes required. The website also includes a waste calculator, that gives businesses the potential costs of their waste collection service, and ideas to improve waste efficiency.

Benefits for Your Business

- **Cost Savings:** Efficient waste separation can reduce landfill fees.
- **Environmental Impact:** Demonstrates your commitment to sustainability and supporting Net Zero by 2023. Divert waste from landfills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to renewable energy generation.
- **Compliance Assurance:** Avoid fines and penalties for non-compliance.

Steps to Prepare

1. **Audit Your Current Waste Management** Review your current waste practices and identify areas for improvement.
2. **Train Your Team** Ensure all employees understand the new system and their role in maintaining compliance.
3. **Invest in Bins and Labels** Purchase the necessary bins and ensure they are clearly labelled.
4. **Partner with a Recycling Provider** Work with a certified waste management company to align your practices with the new legislation.

5. **Keep Accurate Records** Start maintaining detailed logs of waste management processes now to ease the transition.
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How can Quills Help?

Book a FREE consultation or audit and we can review your current processes and what needs to be implemented. Contact [Quills](#) to:

- Discuss waste management solutions including collection, storage and labelling.
 - Assistance sourcing recycling bins – click [here](#). New product SKUs are being added for 2025 and we also have other products available if you can't find what you're looking for in the webstore.
 - If you have bins in situ and require new labelling or posters, contact our [print team](#) today.
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Useful Links & Resources

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england#separating-recyclable-waste>
- <https://businessofrecycling.wrap.ngo/>
- <https://www.wrap.ngo/media-centre/press-releases/wrap-statement-simpler-recycling>