

# Recycling Week: Special Edition

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Recycle Week Special Edition

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Thank you for playing your part in recycling across Swindon



Thank you to everyone who is helping us to improve recycling rates across Swindon. Since January 2025, together we've recycled:

- 2,935 tonnes of paper (*that's almost the same weight as the roof over Wimbledon's Centre Court*)
- 1,993 tonnes of glass
- 1,664 tonnes of cans and plastic
- 2,509 tonnes of food waste
- 2,358 tonnes of green waste (*that's the same weight as about 20 baby elephants*)

Every bottle, envelope and piece of leftover food counts, **but there is still more recycling to be done.**

Analysis of waste placed in Swindon's bins last year revealed that two thirds of food waste still goes into general refuse bins. By not recycling food waste correctly, it ends up in the residual waste stream, reducing the income we're able to bring back into the service.

Alongside the high percentage of food waste which is not being recycled, the waste analysis showed 45 per cent of plastics, 55 per cent of cans and 40 per cent of paper is recycled incorrectly.

We want to increase our recycling rate even further, so please make sure you're checking what you're putting in your wheelie bin.

### It's Recycle Week



This week is Recycle Week (22 to 26 Sep) and we're encouraging Swindonians to rescue items that could have been recycled from their rubbish bin.

By recycling, you help the Council to avoid sending waste to an incinerator. Some of the items, often put in general waste, that can be recycled include:

- **aerosols:** put this item in your weighted blue bag
- **spray bottles:** put this item in your weighted blue bag
- **toothpaste tubes:** put this item in your weighted blue bag
- **foil:** put this item in your weighted blue bag

- **soft plastics:** we're unable to recycle soft plastics at the kerbside, but you can recycle them at a collection point in [multiple supermarkets](#)
- **cosmetics:** Boots offer a beauty, healthcare and wellness [product recycling scheme](#), as these cannot be recycled at the kerbside

### What happens to the food waste you put out for recycling?

Food waste is taken to Codford Biogas in Wiltshire, where a process called anaerobic digestion is used to break down the food waste. As it breaks down it gives off methane, this is collected and converted into biogas, which is used to generate electricity. It also creates a nutrient-rich digestate that is used as a fertiliser for agriculture and in land regeneration. You can [watch how Swindon's food waste is recycled](#) on YouTube.

By recycling food waste, you will help cut down the amount of waste that is burned through incineration.

For every tonne of waste that is recycled rather than put into residual waste streams, the Council spends at least £100 less of taxpayers' money.

To recycle as much as possible, remember what you can and can't put in your caddy:

#### Yes please

- Food leftovers and plate scrapings
- Eggs and their shells
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Meat and fish
- Raw and cooked food
- Bones (from meat, poultry or fish)

#### No thanks

- Garden waste
- Food packaging
- Animal waste



- Cooking oil, lard and fats
- Pet food

The best way to reduce food waste is to plan meals carefully, but when there are leftovers, you should use our food waste recycling service. It's easy to check what can go in your caddy by using the [Waste Wizard](#) on our website.

Great advice on creating [flexible meal plans](#) is available from the national [Love Food Hate Waste](#) website.

#### Food waste recycling rolls out to all flats in Swindon



More than two tonnes of food waste was collected during a recent two-month pilot project involving 500 flats across Swindon.

Following the trial's success, the service will now be [extended to all 11,000 flats borough-wide](#). The pilot helped tailor the service for larger housing blocks and has already reached areas like George Selman Gardens, Cleverton Court and Upavon Court. The next phase will focus on West Swindon.

### Meet our Waste Reduction and Recycling Champions



Reducing waste and promoting positive recycling habits is a key part of the Council's mission to build a Greener Swindon.

To help achieve this, we've introduced a team of waste and recycling officers who work with local residents, landlords and developers to tackle head-on issues preventing residents from playing their part.

Kevin, Chris and Tobin are helping residents so they can access our waste and recycling service, by resolving issues including replacement bins, arranging assisted collections where necessary and educating on the best ways to reduce unnecessary waste.

Did you know we can collect your garden waste for you?



With autumn nearly in full swing, why not sign up for our [garden waste collection service](#) to help manage falling leaves and other garden waste?

Sign-up to our collection service and our team will collect your garden waste straight from your home, every fortnight.

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**Book at visit to the HWRC**

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**Visit**

**Order a new recycling bin or caddy**

**Visit**

**View the Waste Wizard**

**Visit**

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