

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING IN WOKINGHAM BOROUGH 2021/22

Includes information on
waterproof recycling bags and
what to do with your recycling boxes



Why are we doing this?

Last year Wokingham borough faced an issue of wet paper and cardboard. Due to changes in the world market for card and paper, when we collect wet recycling Wokingham borough can no longer meet the quality standard of the UK and European markets where most of our recycling is re-processed.

This issue has dropped our recycling rate by around six per cent, which not only harms the environment but also has a significant financial cost. Therefore we have come up with a solution of these sealable, waterproof recycling bags to keep paper and card dry through to the end of the current waste collection contract, which ends in 2026.

We are also looking at longer term solutions for when our waste contract expires in 2026, which will include an assessment of wheelie bins. Wheelie bins are not possible now because we are in the middle of our current waste collection contract.



Using the bags is easy

All material that you previously put in your black recycling boxes can go into the bags. The new 60-litre reusable bags are 10 litres bigger than the recycling boxes and come with a strip of velcro running across the width of the bag and at both ends to help keep all your recycling secure and dry. They are weighted to help ensure the bags don't blow away.

Clearly display your house name or number on the bags.

Wash and squash your recycling to maximise the capacity of the bags.

No recycling will be collected that is left to the side of the bags.

Oversized cardboard needs to be broken

down and placed in the bags or be taken to a recycling centre.



If additional capacity is needed during the rollout of the recycling bags you can use your black boxes until you can get more bags. Please prioritise the bags for paper and card until you have enough bags.

Start using the bags immediately

You will have received two reusable recycling bags with this leaflet which immediately replace the existing recycling boxes. If you have not received these on your doorstep please visit www.wokingham.gov.uk (search 'recycling') to get the latest information.



The bags must be securely closed at all times to keep the materials dry. Once the bags have been fully rolled out, we will no longer collect wet material inside or at the side of the bags. Cardboard to the side will not be collected. Do not overfill bags so they cannot be closed.

What can be recycled?



Paper and cardboard



Plastic bottles



Aerosol cans



Plastic pots, tubs and trays



Clean food tins and drink cans



Cartons (Tetrapaks)



Black plastic



Textiles



Plastic carrier bags



Polystyrene



Glass bottles and jars



Food waste

Putting unacceptable items in recycling can contaminate the entire lorry load of recycling, is bad for the environment and does not help us meet our recycling targets. This comes with a considerable financial implication for the council, affecting our residents in the long run.

What cannot be recycled in the recycling bags?



General waste

What to do with your black boxes

Once you have enough bags for all your recycling, please only use these and repurpose your black boxes.

Suggestions to reuse the boxes:

- Use for storage in the garage, shed or loft
- Make a garden planter
- Use to grow vegetables
- Store your glass for the bottle bank
- If you don't want them your neighbours might, ask around to see if others want them



If you can't reuse them:

- Do not leave your black boxes out for collection if you can't repurpose them. There will be a dedicated collection period later this year. Check our website or sign up for our newsletter for updates. More information on this will be sent to residents during the summer



Frequently asked questions

Q: Will I be able to use my existing recycling boxes as well as recycling bags?

A: Use your bags as soon as you get them. We will continue to collect from filled black boxes, until we notify you in the coming months that they are to be discontinued and your boxes will be collected if you are unable to repurpose them. If using both receptacles we ask that you use your new recycling bags for mixed paper and cardboard to keep it dry, and the black boxes for other items if necessary.

Q: Will I be able to get additional bags?

A: Yes, additional recycling bags will be available free of charge shortly after the rollout of the bags has been completed. Check our website for more information.

If you've not found your answer here, go to www.wokingham.gov.uk (search 'recycling bags') to read the full FAQs.

Food Waste



Our food waste collection services continue to grow in popularity, with more than half of households now using the service regularly.

Since launch in April 2019 we've diverted more than 8,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill, which is now being used to generate electricity.

The food waste recycled in our borough has provided enough energy to power 32,288 homes for a day or 88 homes for a year.

If you're still not using the service you can get caddies and liners from one of our local stockists. Visit www.wokingham.gov.uk (search 'food waste'). You can also line your caddies with newspaper, bread bags or leave them unlined if you wish.

Impact of Covid-19 on waste services

Covid-19 is impacting where you can get additional waste items in the borough, like more blue bin bags or food waste caddy liners. Some local stockists may be different to where you're used to going.

Check our website to get the latest information on where to get the items you need. Visit www.wokingham.gov.uk (search 'rubbish and recycling').

Weekly rubbish and recycling newsletter

Did you know we issue a weekly email newsletter with all the information and updates you'll need on our recycling service? You can sign up using the QR code on the right.



Garden Waste

A fortnightly chargeable garden waste collection service is available for an annual fee of £65. This is a £5 increase from last year. You can opt into this from March and this will cover the period from May 2021 to April 2022, this is the first price increase since the scheme was introduced in 2012 and is to cover increased costs.

If you're already using the service you should receive an email or letter reminding you to opt in again online. If you're signing up for the first time, the cost includes a 240-litre wheelie bin. You will receive a teal coloured sticker to put on the bin to mark you have paid for the service for 2021/22. The service takes away garden clippings, grass cuttings, leaves and weeds, with the material then reprocessed into re3regrow compost, which is sold at cost of production at our recycling centres.

Garden waste sacks

You can also buy 75-litre compostable sacks for £1.10 each. These are available from the council offices, libraries or local stockists, subject to Covid-19 opening.

Household waste recycling centres

Wokingham borough residents can use the re3 recycling centres at Longshot Lane, Bracknell (RG12 1RL) and Smallmead, Island Road, Reading (RG2 0RP).

Due to Covid-19 a 'click and tip' system has been introduced where residents are required to book in advance. To book, visit our website (search 'local tips').



General Waste

Waste collections

You should receive two rolls of blue bags this spring. These are for your general waste. If you haven't received them by the end of April please contact us via our website www.wokingham.gov.uk (search 'rubbish and recycling').

Blue bags should be placed at the boundary of your property, or your designated collection point, next to your food waste bin and waterproof recycling bags. This is so the bags can be collected easily by our waste collection contractor.



Bank Holidays

We collect on bank holidays (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day) but please note collections start earlier (5.30am rather than 6.30am).

Moving house?

If you move within the borough please take your blue bags with you.

Larger families

Extra bags will be delivered to those who registered as a larger household in 2020. If you are a household of five or more who require additional bags please register online. For more information visit www.wokingham.gov.uk (search 'blue bags').

Glass recycling

Remember to recycle your glass in the bottle banks or at one of our Household Waste Recycling Centres. Check www.recyclenow.com for your nearest bottle bank site. Glass must be placed inside the bottle banks. Any glass put in the blue bags or on the floor by bottle banks cannot be recycled.



Other Information

Missed collections

If your general, recycling, garden or food waste collections are ever missed you can report this online after 4pm on your normal collection day or the following day. Visit **www.wokingham.gov.uk** (search 'report missed collection'). It will then be investigated and if no valid reason is recorded by the crew we'll rearrange collection within two working days.



Sign up for our recycling incentive scheme GreenRedeem and get rewarded for your efforts to recycle more. For sign up and further details visit: **www.greenredeem.co.uk**



Use our **re3cyclopedia** app for further help with recycling by visiting our website, go to:
<https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk/recylo/>



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