



# Waste and recycling guide



[buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk)  
**0300 131 6000**

# Quality counts - be a five-star recycler

Make sure the quality of your recycling is high and help the environment. Please don't include items that we can't recycle yet.

## X NO THANKS - WE CANNOT ACCEPT THESE ITEMS



**Plastic film, carrier bags & bin liners**



**Pill cases**



**Polystyrene**



**Crisps, sweets, or biscuit wrappers**



**Rigid plastics  
e.g. toys & plant pots**



**Pet food pouches & toothpaste tubes**

## What is recycling contamination?

Put simply, contamination in recycling refers to anything that's in your recycling that shouldn't be. In some cases, that might be the result of what's known as 'wishcycling' – when we chuck without checking, in the hope that something is recyclable.

It could be something that's recyclable, but not collected by your council yet (such as plastic wrapping), recycling contaminated with food or something that can't be recycled at all.

## Why is contamination bad?

There are a number of reasons why it's important to put the right things in the right bin. If there are too many of the wrong things in the bin, it can mean that whole lorry-loads of recycling can't be recycled. In other words, a few bad apples spoil the whole barrel.

[buckinghamshire.gov.uk/recycle-right](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/recycle-right)

Another consideration is the increased costs of collecting and sorting contaminated recycling – costs that are ultimately borne by all of us, as taxpayers. By making sure the right things are in the right containers, we can all help save time and money and make the recycling process more effective.

Contamination can also reduce the value of the recyclable materials and can lead to them having to be disposed of rather than recycled into new products.

## Top tips:

- Rinse your cans, plastic and glass
- If there's lots of grease on your pizza box, you could tear off the greasy sections (or just recycle the lid)
- Remember to replace the lids on bottles and jars before recycling them
- Remember to remove any polystyrene or bubble wrap before putting cardboard boxes out for recycling
- Remember, all recycling should be loose and no bags in the mixed recycling bins or paper boxes

# Mixed Recycling

Collected **fortnightly**

You can recycle packaging from all around your home.

Rinse food packaging and place them **loose, not bagged**, into your recycling bin.

If the bin contains the wrong items, we will be unable to empty it. If in doubt, leave it out of the recycling bin.



## We also collect small electrical items (anything with a plug or battery)

Place small electricals in a standard carrier bag on top of the recycling bin, with batteries and vapes in a separate clear bag. Textiles can also be recycled in a clear bag placed next to the recycling bin.

### ✓ YES PLEASE



Plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays



Glass bottles and jars



Tins, cans, clean foil and aerosols



Milk, juice and soup cartons



Ready meal containers (any colour)

### ✗ NO THANKS



Paper or cardboard\*\* (thin and corrugated)



Plastic film, carrier bags or bin liners



Crisps, sweets or biscuit wrappers



Food



Nappies



Broken glassware or china



Polystyrene e.g. food trays or cups



Find out more on what goes in the bin  
Visit: [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/recycle-right](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/recycle-right)

# Paper and Cardboard Recycling

You can recycle paper and cardboard, as long as it's not waxed or soiled with food or oil.

Place items **loose, not bagged**, into the paper box.

If the box contains the wrong items, we will be unable to empty it.

Collected **fortnightly**



Extra cardboard should be flattened, folded and stacked neatly next to your paper box.



## ✗ NO THANKS



Polystyrene



Tissues or kitchen roll



Plastic film, carrier bags or bin liners



Padded envelopes



Milk, juice or soup cartons

## ✓ YES PLEASE



Newspapers and magazines



Paper and envelopes



Directories, catalogues and books



**Cardboard packaging**  
(cardboard boxes, egg boxes and kitchen/toilet rolls holders, microwave sleeves)



**Greetings cards & wrapping paper**  
(except foil & glitter)

# General Waste

Collected fortnightly

Please take DIY items, soil, turf and building materials to your local Household Recycling centre.



No batteries or vapes in this bin



Please remember to use the brown food bin to recycle your food waste

## X NO THANKS



Plastic bottles, tubs, pots or trays\*



Glass jars or bottles\*



Tins, cans, clean foil or aerosols\*



Paper or cardboard\*\*  
(clean and dry)



Milk, juice or soup cartons\*



Batteries, vapes or small electricals\*\*\*

## ✓ YES PLEASE



Nappies



Used tissues and baby wipes



Plastic film, carrier bags and bin liners



Crisps, sweets and biscuit wrappers



Broken glassware and china



Polystyrene e.g. food trays and cups



Pet bedding and pet litter

# Food Recycling

Collected **weekly**

You can recycle all food waste. Just bag it up and transfer it from your indoor caddy to the brown food caddy for collection.



You can use **plastic bags, compostable liners, or newspaper** to line your food caddy, visit [recycleforbuckinghamshire.gov.uk/food](http://recycleforbuckinghamshire.gov.uk/food)

## ✓ YES PLEASE



**Raw, cooked, mouldy & burnt food**



**Tea bags and coffee grounds**



**Pet food: wet and dry**



**Bones, shells, and skins**  
(meat, fish or eggs)



**Fruit and vegetable peelings**

## ✗ NO THANKS



**Garden waste**



**Pet bedding or litter**



**Food or drink packaging**



**Black bags**



**Liquids e.g. cooking oils**



Remember **plate scrapings and even mouldy and out-of-date food** can go in your food recycling bin

# Garden Waste

Collected fortnightly



Chargeable  
subscription  
service

## ✓ YES PLEASE



Grass cuttings



Plants, flowers  
and leaves



Hedge trimmings,  
tree cuttings and  
small branches



Non-noxious weeds

## ✗ NO THANKS

Turf, soil, stones or rocks

Pet bedding or litter

Plant pots, plastic bags, bin  
liners or compostable liners

Noxious weeds (e.g. Japanese  
Knotweed, Ragwort and Giant Hogweed)

# Bulky Waste Collections

You can use our bulky collection  
service to dispose of large items.

## ITEMS INCLUDE



### Furniture

(Chairs, garden furniture,  
mattresses, beds, sofas,  
wardrobes)



### White goods

(Washing machine,  
tumble dryer, fridge,  
freezer)



### Electrical items

(TV, computer,  
vacuum cleaner)

**This is a chargeable service.**  
Bookings can be made online or  
by calling Customer Services on  
**0300 131 6000.**

Terms and conditions apply; please see  
the council website for further details:  
[buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

We cannot collect the following items:

- ✗ Soil or turf
- ✗ Building materials
- ✗ Hardcore and rubble

You can dispose of these items at your  
local Household Recycling Centre.  
(There may be a charge.)

**Customer Services 0300 131 6000.**

**Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5.30pm**

**Friday: 9am to 5pm**

**[buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk)**

# Household Recycling Centres

Buckinghamshire has ten household recycling centres across the county which makes it easy for you to recycle more, dispose of excess waste and get rid of large items like furniture or electrical appliances.

Last year the sites recycled more than 65% and accept **over 25 different waste streams!**

## Before you visit:

- Check our webcams online to see how busy the site is
- Sort your waste so it's easier to recycle or reuse different materials
- Check the website to see if you need a vehicle permit or have non-household waste to pay for

## Buckinghamshire Household Recycling Centres

All sites are open: 9am to 4pm (October to March) and 9am to 6pm (April to September).

### Sites open seven days a week

- Amersham
- Aston Clinton
- Beaconsfield
- Buckingham
- High Wycombe
- Langley

### Sites open five days a week (closed every Wednesday & Thursday)

- Aylesbury
- Bledlow Ridge
- Burnham
- Chesham

## Household waste

Most waste from the home such as general rubbish, glass, cardboard, clothes, garden waste and furniture is still free of charge to dispose of and around 9/10 people visit and pay nothing to dispose of their waste.

## DIY waste

Small amounts of DIY waste can be disposed of free of charge, but you need an e-permit before you visit. Any amount of DIY waste over the free allowance will be charged for.

## Reuse shops

All sites accept items for reuse which are then delivered to the South Bucks Hospice shops at Aston Clinton & High Wycombe recycling centres.

Visit [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk) to find addresses, webcams, virtual tours, full price list and more.



**GREENER  
TOGETHER**

Community compost now available  
at all Household recycling centres