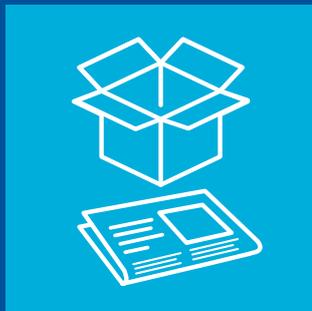


# SIMPLER RECYCLING REGULATIONS

The Government is introducing a new 'Simpler Recycling' policy from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, meaning that convenience stores in England that produce waste collected in customer facing bins or from their business operations must separate and present their waste to their waste collector into the following four waste streams:



Dry recycling



Paper and card



Food waste



Black bin waste

An ACS advice guide for retailers [www.acs.org.uk](http://www.acs.org.uk)



## Simpler recycling: convenience stores impacted and timing

All convenience retailers will be impacted by the Simpler Recycling policy.

**31**  
**March 2025**

Retailers with more than 10 full time equivalent (FTE) employees will need to comply with the Simpler Recycling policy from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The 10 FTE employees threshold applies to the whole business, not individual sites.

**31**  
**March 2027**

Micro business exemption

Businesses with less than 10 full time equivalent employees are exempt from Simpler Recycling until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

<p><b>Dry recycling</b></p>	<p><b>Paper and card</b></p>	<p><b>Food waste</b></p>	<p><b>Black bin waste</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Glass:</b> Such as drinks bottles and rinsed, empty food jars.</li> <li>• <b>Metal:</b> Such as drinks cans and rinsed, empty food tins, empty aerosols, aluminium foil, aluminium food trays and tubes.</li> <li>• <b>Plastic:</b> Such as rinsed empty food containers and bottles.</li> </ul>	<p>The default policy is that paper and card should be collected separately from dry recyclable material (see dry recycling box).  <i>You should talk to your waste collector about the co-collection of paper and card and dry recyclable materials (see above definition). Waste collectors can make an application for paper and card to be collected as part of the dry recycling materials.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food leftovers</b></li> <li>• <b>Waste generated by preparing food</b></li> </ul> <p>There is no minimum level of food waste. Any food waste produced i.e. a single tea bag, must be separated from other waste streams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Absorbent hygiene products:</b> Such as nappies.</li> <li>• <b>Highly contaminated materials:</b> Like food packaging that cannot be washed.</li> </ul>

## Enforcement

The regulations are enforced by the Environment Agency. If non-compliance is identified the Environment Agency will begin by issuing advice, followed by a compliance notice and finally financial penalties or convictions.

## Simpler recycling: action for convenience retailers

### Action: Talk to your waste collector

You should contact your waste collector immediately to check what provision they have in place to deal with the introduction of Simpler Recycling and any additional costs you may face as a result.

Your existing waste collector could be a private provider (for example Biffa, Veolia, Suez, Viridor) or your local authority.

#### Key questions to ask your waste collector:

- What changes will there be to my waste collections when Simpler Recycling is introduced in March 2025?
- Will there be any additional costs for my waste collections because of Simpler Recycling?
- Do you plan to collect paper and card separately from dry recycling from my site(s)?
- How will you assess and communicate with us about the quality of waste that we present for collection?

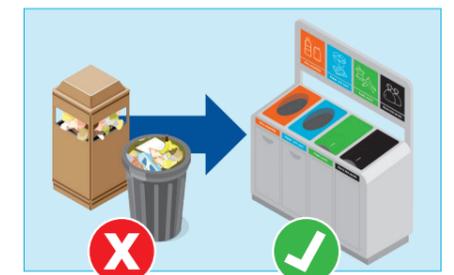
You should continue to complete your waste transfer notes as normal and ensure that you are working with a compliant waste collector.

### Action: Review bin and recycling provision in your store(s)

#### Shop floor: Customer facing bins

If you have customer facing waste bins in your store or outside your store that you are responsible for disposing the waste from, you will have to introduce new bins to enable your customers to separate their waste. This should be supported by clear signage encouraging customers to separate out their waste correctly.

Retailers may need to consider the consolidation of customer facing waste bins where it is difficult to offer the full range of separate waste stream bins or where you are not confident customers will separate out their waste correctly.



Consider consolidating bins where customers are unlikely to separate waste properly. Consider removing bins where waste cannot be separated.

Retailers have a “duty of care” to ensure they manage waste responsibly and reduce litter around their store(s), but it’s for businesses to decide the provision of customer facing bins. Retailers should also consider they may face enforcement action by the Environment Agency if the waste they present to their waste collectors is not properly separated.

#### Store rooms: Business waste bins

Retailers must ensure there are separate waste bins for the four waste streams available at the back of the store and clear signage for colleagues to separate out their business waste, for example cardboard or food waste. Store colleagues should be provided with equipment to manage waste and the movement of waste safely. For more information see ACS’ Health and Safety advice here: <https://www.acs.org.uk/advice/managing-health-and-safety>



# ACS | best practice

## ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for waste collectors on separating dry recyclables, food waste and black bin waste: <https://tinyurl.com/3mfvxxm3>

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is provided by the Association of Convenience Stores. It was last updated in January 2025. Please refer to the ACS website for the most current version of this guidance and any additional FAQs. [www.acs.org.uk/advice](http://www.acs.org.uk/advice)

## CONTACT

### Our website

[www.acs.org.uk](http://www.acs.org.uk)

### Our social media

@ACS\_localshops on X, Bluesky, Instagram and TikTok

Association of Convenience Stores on LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube

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