

Recycling in Edinburgh

This guide tells you about the different things you can recycle from home and which bins to use.



What to put in your bins

The type of bins you use will depend on where you live. You will either use the kerbside service (wheelie bins) or the communal service (on street bins), or you may use a combination of both.

Please don't leave items, including bin bags, next to bins.

Food waste

Grey lidded food caddies and grey lidded communal bins are for recycling food waste. Use them for cooked and uncooked food (they must be bagged in compostable liners, plastic bags or wrapped in newspaper).



Yes please

- ✓ Beans, pasta, rice and bread
- ✓ Cakes and bakery items
- ✓ Dairy items, eggs and egg shells
- ✓ Fruit and vegetables including peelings
- ✓ Meat and fish including bones
- ✓ Fast food, for example chips and pizzas
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds

No thanks

- ✗ Liquids including milk and cooking oil
- ✗ Food packaging
- ✗ Loose food waste

Mixed recycling and packaging

Green wheelie bins, green lidded communal bins and red boxes* are for recycling paper, plastics, cans, cardboard and foil. (*Red boxes are only available to certain properties in the city centre).



Yes please

- ✓ Paper and unwanted mail
- ✓ Cardboard and clean drinks cartons
- ✓ Clean plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- ✓ Clean cans, tins, foil and empty aerosols
- ✓ Envelopes

No thanks

- ✗ Plastic bags, wrappers, crisp bags and cling film
- ✗ Paper towels
- ✗ Plastic plant pots and toys
- ✗ Glass

Garden waste

Brown bins are for garden waste. From October 2018 garden waste will be a service you have to pay for (£25 a year) and you will need to register and pay online to receive garden waste collections edinburgh.gov.uk/gardenwaste



Yes please

- ✓ Flowers, plants and weeds
- ✓ Grass cuttings and leaves
- ✓ Hedge clippings, twigs and small branches

No thanks

- ✗ Animal waste and bedding
- ✗ Plant pots
- ✗ Soil and turf

**£25 a
year from
October
2018**

Paper recycling

Blue lidded communal bins are for recycling paper. Where not available, paper can go in mixed recycling bins.



Yes please

- ✓ Newspapers and magazines
- ✓ Unwanted mail
- ✓ Wrapping paper, not metallic
- ✓ Printed and shredded paper
- ✓ Other types of white paper

No thanks

- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Glass
- ✗ Wrappers, crisp bags or photographs
- ✗ Polystyrene

Large items

If you have large unwanted items eg furniture, white goods or mattresses:

- phone the Re-use Line and have a charity collect reusable items for free on 0800 0665 820
- use our special uplift service (**£5 charge per item book online edinburgh.gov.uk/bulkywaste**).

Don't leave any items, including bin bags, next to bins. This is flytipping and it's illegal.

Yes please

- ✓ Mattresses
- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ TVs
- ✓ Washing machines
- ✓ Fridge freezers
- ✓ Carpets

No thanks

- ✗ Household waste
- ✗ Car batteries and tyres
- ✗ Pianos
- ✗ Storage heaters

**Special
uplifts £5
an item**

Glass

Blue boxes and purple lidded communal bins are for recycling glass bottles and jars.



Yes please

- ✓ Glass bottles – all colours
- ✓ Glass jars – all colours

No thanks

- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Light bulbs, glass dishes, broken glass, ceramics, pyrex and window panes

Small electricals, batteries and textiles

Blue boxes can also be used for small electrical items and household batteries. We will also collect textiles as well as glass.



Yes please

- ✓ Small electrical items placed on top or next to the box, for example hairdryers and toasters
- ✓ Household batteries placed inside a clear bag and on top of the box
- ✓ Clothing, towels, clean sheets, pairs of shoes, placed inside a plastic bag
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars - all colours

No thanks

- ✗ Large electrical items, for example microwaves or larger items
- ✗ Duvets and pillows
- ✗ Light bulbs, glass dishes, broken glass, ceramics and pyrex

Recycling centres

Take your unwanted items to one of our three household waste recycling centres at Seafield, Craigmillar and Sighthill. Here are some of the things we accept there. Check our website for opening times.

No trade waste

Yes please	No thanks
✓ Garden waste	✗ Liquid paint
✓ Electrical items, including fluorescent tubes	✗ Fuels (petrol and diesel)
✓ Rubble, wood, timber, MDF and soil	✗ Explosives (fireworks, flares and airbags)
✓ Carpets, furniture, mattresses	✗ Firearms
✓ Cooking oil and dried out paint pots	✗ Fire extinguishers
✓ Toys, clothes and textiles	✗ Diving bottles for scuba-diving
✓ Gas bottles	✗ Poisons
✓ Cardboard, glass bottles and jars	✗ Asbestos or materials containing asbestos
✓ Scrap metal, tyres, car batteries, used engine oil	✗ Biological waste
✓ Non-recyclable waste	✗ Heavy metals (mercury, thermometers and barometers)
	✗ Any commercial or trade waste

Non-recyclable waste

Grey wheelie bins and black lidded communal bins should only be used for any waste that cannot be recycled.



Find out more about recycling on our website edinburgh.gov.uk/recycle



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www.edinburgh.gov.uk/its

0131 242 8181

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