

 recycle for Edinburgh

It's easy to recycle from home

Helping
you recycle
more



This guide has everything you
need to know to reduce, reuse and
recycle.

• EDINBURGH •
YOUR COUNCIL - YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Thank you for already helping us recycle 40% of Edinburgh's waste - this makes a huge difference to our environment.

Around 70% of our household waste can be recycled, so it's important we all recycle as much as we can.

We turn everything you recycle into new products



Paper and card are turned into new paper and card products.

Food wa
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Plastics are turned into new plastic bottles, packaging and other items, like garden furniture.



Why recycle?

Recycling is one step everyone can take to make the planet cleaner and greener and help Edinburgh reduce its emissions to net-zero by 2030.

When you recycle or reuse products, it reduces the need to grow, harvest or extract natural resources from the earth, which reduces the damage being done to our natural world. It also saves energy and cuts climate-changing carbon emissions.

Food waste is turned into bioenergy and compost. The energy is used to power homes and businesses. Compost is used on agricultural land, parks and green spaces.



Glass is recycled and turned into new glass products, like bottles and jars.



Foil is recycled and turned into new foil and aluminium products.



Tins, cans and aerosols are recycled and turned back into new tins, cans and aerosols.

Food recycling

Grey lidded or black food bins



Yes please

- ✓ Dairy and eggshells
- ✓ Fish meat and bones
- ✓ Fruit and vegetables (vegetable peelings too)
- ✓ Bread and cakes
- ✓ Rice, pasta and pizza
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Pet food
- ✓ Unpackaged out-of-date food

No thanks

- ✗ Liquids eg milk and oil
- ✗ Food packaging



Keeping your caddy clean

- You can empty your kitchen caddy as often as needed.
- Your caddy can be stored anywhere including in a cupboard.
- Give your caddy a quick rinse after emptying it and then replace the liner.



Avoid spillages by only filling the liner 3/4 full before tying.

It's easy to recycle your food waste



Line your caddy with a compostable liner or plastic bag. Scrape any veg peelings, leftovers, teabags etc into your kitchen caddy.



When the liner is nearly full, tie it up and remove it from your caddy.



Put it in your outdoor food bin.



We'll take your food waste and turn it into fertiliser and green energy.

Mixed recycling

Green lidded bin



Put everything in the bin loose – no plastic bags

Yes please

Paper - clean and dry

- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Letters and envelopes (including windows)
- ✓ Office and shredded paper
- ✓ Glitter free wrapping paper

Cardboard - flattened

- ✓ Cardboard eg packaging and boxes
- ✓ Toilet and kitchen roll tubes
- ✓ Glitter free greetings cards

Cartons - rinsed and squashed

- ✓ fruit juice, milk, soup and sauce cartons

Plastics - rinsed and squashed

Bottles, pots, tubs and trays, including:

- ✓ Food trays
- ✓ Yoghurt pots
- ✓ Drinks bottles
- ✓ Cleaning and toiletry bottles
- ✓ Lids and tops

Yes please

Metals - emptied and rinsed

- ✓ Tins
- ✓ Drinks cans
- ✓ Empty aerosols
- ✓ Foil trays
- ✓ Aluminium foil

No thanks

- ✗ Tissues, napkins and kitchen towels
- ✗ Padded envelopes
- ✗ Cardboard spoiled with food or grease (eg greasy pizza boxes)
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Plastic bags, film, wrappers or cellophane
- ✗ Crisp packets
- ✗ Bubble wrap
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Plastic netting
- ✗ Plant pots
- ✗ Toothpaste tubes

Recycling
one
aluminium can
saves enough
energy to run a
TV for three
hours.

Getting the most from your recycling

When the wrong things are put in recycling bins it can spoil the rest of the contents and stop them from being recycled. Even small bits of food and grease can spoil other items in the bin, like paper and cardboard. Make sure your efforts don't go to waste!

Recycling just one plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a 60W lightbulb for six hours.

Check it

Make sure it's on the 'yes please' list.



Empty it

Make sure any bottles or containers are empty. Remember, you can also recycle plastic drink bottle lids.



Rinse it

Rinse any food and drinks packaging with water before putting it in the bin – you can even use dish water to do this.



Remove it

Peel film lids and coverings off plastic tubs, pots and trays. Plastic film, wrapping and cellophane can't be recycled.



Separate it

Don't store containers and packaging inside each other - it's difficult to separate them at the recycling plant.



Glass bottles and jars



Purple lidded recycling bin

Please only recycle your glass between 7am and 9pm to avoid disturbing your neighbours.

Yes please

- ✓ All colours of glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Metal lids from your bottles and jars

No thanks

- ✗ Crockery, ceramics and pyrex
- ✗ Windows and mirrors
- ✗ Drinking glasses
- ✗ Light bulbs

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to make 14 slices of toast.

These types of glass can't be recycled with your bottles and jars because they don't melt at the same temperature and create impurities in the recycled glass.



Non-recyclable waste

Black lidded bins

Now that you're recycling more, only about 30% of your waste should go in this bin.

Yes please

- ✓ Plastic bags, films, polystyrene and wrappers e.g. crisp packets
- ✓ Laminated food pouches e.g. baby food, express rice, pet food
- ✓ Kitchen roll, serviettes and other items soiled with food
- ✓ Nappies
- ✓ Pet waste
- ✓ Animal bedding

No thanks

Please don't leave bulky items next to bins as it can block access and make them overflow. There are other ways you can get rid of things you don't want (see pages 10 - 12).

- ✗ Items that can go in your recycling bins
- ✗ Bulky DIY items eg flooring and shelving



The average household can save up to three trees a year by recycling all their paper and cardboard.

Reduce

In Scotland we throw away 600,000 tonnes of food and drink from our homes every year, most of which could have been eaten. This waste costs us over £1 billion a year, or £460 for the average household.

Our food recycling service is great for disposing of unavoidable food waste, like peelings, bones and fruit cores. Reducing the amount we waste in the first place can save us money and benefit the environment. Find tips and recipes to help avoid food waste at

scotland.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Re-use

Every year in Scotland thousands of potentially re-useable items are thrown out. Around 80% of our carbon footprint comes from all the goods, materials and services we produce, use and often throw out after just one use.

There are great re-use organisations in Edinburgh that offer alternative ways to give new life to your unwanted items whilst helping your local community. If your unwanted items are in good condition, visit **reuseline.com** to find them a new home. A local organisation will collect them.



If you have a bike you no longer want, visit **thebikestation.org.uk**



The Edinburgh Remakery will take your unwanted IT equipment **edinburghremakery.org.uk**

Consider if you can repair an item too – maybe you don't need to buy a new one?

Why re-use?

You'll benefit your local community and charitable organisations by supporting employment and volunteering opportunities.

You'll be helping to reduce the amount of items going to waste and reducing the environmental impact of waste.

You'll save the Council waste disposal costs - money which can be better spent in your community.

Recycling centres

If you have extra recycling and waste, or you have large items that aren't in reusable condition, like white goods, you can book an appointment on our website to take them to one of our three recycling centres **edinburgh.gov.uk/recyclingcentres**

Special uplifts

We offer a collection service for bulky household items, like sofas and fridges. There's a charge for each item we collect and a maximum of five items can be collected per uplift.

Book your collection at edinburgh.gov.uk/bulkywaste

Garden waste

Garden waste is a fortnightly paid collection service. Find out more about the cost for a garden waste permit and how and when you can register for the service on our website edinburgh.gov.uk/gardenwaste

For more information:
edinburgh.gov.uk/recycle



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