

Sandwell's bin collections are changing

Here's what you need to know

Starting from 15 September 2025



Collected
alternate weeks

Collected
weekly

Collected
every other
week
(Subscription only)

Find out more at
www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins



Introducing Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC) and Dual-Stream Recycling (DSR)

Why is Sandwell introducing these changes?

The Government is introducing new regulations (Simpler Recycling) to help minimise waste.

The regulations will make recycling easier and more effective. As part of these changes, we're improving how waste is managed to help protect the environment and create a more sustainable future for Sandwell.

At present, too much waste is being incinerated instead of recycled, leading to higher pollution and rising disposal costs. Sandwell's recycling rate is below the national average, and we need to take action.

What are Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC)?

From 15 September 2025 recycling and non-recycling bins will be collected alternate weeks. This means that residents will still have a weekly collection but we will collect non-recycling one week and recycling the following week.

Example month

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
Week 1	Non-recycling (grey) bin				
Week 2	Recycling (blue lid) bins for glass, cans, plastics and new recycling (blue) bag for paper, cardboard and cartons				
Week 3	Non-recycling (grey) bin				
Week 4	Recycling (blue lid) bins for glass, cans, plastics and new recycling (blue) bag for paper, cardboard and cartons				



Garden waste collections
Fortnightly (subscription only)

Food waste collections
Collected weekly (sign up online)



What is Dual-Stream Recycling (DSR)?

From 15 September all households will have to separate paper, cardboard and cartons from other recycling as per Government regulations. These items will need to be put into the new recycling (blue) bag which will be delivered between 26 August - 14 September.

How will AWC and DSR help?

- Increase recycling rates and reduce waste sent for incineration
- Lower carbon emissions and create a cleaner Sandwell
- Cut disposal costs, freeing up funds for local services

By making these changes now, we're building a greener, more sustainable Sandwell for everyone.

Keeping you informed



We will write to all residents a few weeks before we make changes to bin collections, explaining exactly what is changing and when.

These changes do not affect flats and high-rise buildings at this stage.

What goes in your bins?

Starting from 15 September 2025

One week:

Recycling (blue lid) bin
Recycling (blue) bag



RECYCLING (BLUE LID) BIN:

WHAT GOES IN:



- Food tins and drink cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles, tubs and food trays
- Empty aerosols
- Foil

NO THANKS:



- Nappies
- Clothes or fabrics
- Paint tins or cans
- Crisps, biscuits or sweet wrappers
- Hard plastics like furniture or toys
- DIY garden and chemical bottles
- Plastic bags
- Polystyrene
- Drinking glasses, pyrex and glass dishes

RECYCLING (BLUE) BAG:

WHAT GOES IN:



- Paper
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Card
- Cardboard
- Cartons

NO THANKS:



- Plastics and packaging
- Polystyrene
- Tissues
- Greaseproof paper
- Glitter or foil wrapping paper
- Greeting cards with glitter or attachments

The next week:

Non-recycling (grey) bin



NON-RECYCLING (GREY) BIN:

WHAT GOES IN:



- Nappies
- Clothes or fabrics
- Paint tins or cans
- Crisps, biscuits or sweet wrappers
- Hard plastics like furniture or toys
- DIY garden and chemical bottles
- Plastic bags
- Drinking glasses, pyrex and glass dishes

NO THANKS:



- Items that you can recycle
- Soil or rubble
- Bulky or electrical items
- Batteries
- Gas canisters of any kind

What goes in your bins?

Collected weekly:
Food waste (brown) bin

**Sign up online for
food waste
collection**



FOOD WASTE (BROWN) BIN:

WHAT GOES IN: ✓

- Meat - raw and cooked, bones
- Fish/shellfish - raw and cooked, including bones and shells
- Eggs products (including egg shells)
- Dairy
- Bread, cakes and other baked goods
- Pasta and rice
- Beans and rice
- Fruit
- Salad and vegetables
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Lard and other hard fats
- Tinned and dry pet food
- Any meal leftovers

NO THANKS: ✗

- Packaging
- Cardboard
- Foil
- Plastic film or plastic bags
- Glass
- Other recycling
- Garden waste
- Straw or other animal bedding
- Liquids

Collected fortnightly:
Garden waste (green) bin
(subscription only)



GARDEN WASTE (GREEN) BIN:

WHAT GOES IN: ✓

- Grass cuttings
- Hedge and shrub clippings
- Plants and weeds
- Leaves, twigs and bark
- Cut flowers
- Windfalls (fallen fruit such as apples)

NO THANKS: ✗

- Soil, pot plant compost, turf, ash or garden chemicals
- Plastic (including plastic bags, bin liners, carrier bags or plant pots)
- Food or kitchen waste (including raw or cooked food)
- Stones or rubble
- DIY rubbish, timber or sawdust
- Animal waste or bedding
- Metal or glass

Find out more and read our FAQ's online

**TOP
TIPS**



SIGN UP FOR
food waste
collections

RECYCLE
at the tip

BOOK
a bulky waste
collection

PASS OR DONATE
unwanted items for
reuse

www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins