

Recycle More Messenger

8 October, 2020

Welcome to the latest update on Recycle More. In just over two weeks the new service will be launched in Mendip, expanding weekly recycling and moving from two to three-weekly rubbish collections. From Monday (12 Oct) the distinctive Bright Blue Bag will start being delivered to homes – the sign that things are about to change.

Bright Blue facts

The Bright Blue Bag has been the subject of a lot of questions. Here are a few helpful things to know:

- It has a 60-litre capacity
- It's tough and waterproof
- It folds flat when not in use
- It's base-weighted to prevent it from blowing away
- It's got a Velcro-fastened lid that stops the contents blowing away

Similar bags were used when we trialled the service in Somerset and are used elsewhere, including east Devon. They've been shown to work well.



When will the bag arrive?

It will be delivered by teams following recycling crews in the two weeks leading up to the launch. So, from Monday 12 October. Exactly when it arrives will depend on where you live, but all will be delivered before the new service starts.

Each bag will have a tag reminding people what needs to go in them, and a note to check their collection day calendar to see when they should start using it.

That first Recycle More collection day is when different things need to be put in the different containers.

What if my bag doesn't arrive or goes missing?

This shouldn't happen, but replacements can be ordered free online through Mendip District, either online <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/recyclemore> or by calling 0300 3038588. In the meantime, put the Blue Bag materials in your black recycling box.

Stickers coming too

Teams delivering the bags will also be putting stickers on recycling boxes to show what goes where with Recycle More. Items will need to go into different boxes.

- Green box – glass bottles and jars (with lids on), cartons. No broken glass, window glass or cookware like Pyrex.
- Black box – paper and card, separate as much as possible and flatten cardboard.

What goes in the bag?

Plastic bottles – clear, coloured or opaque. Water bottles, milk bottles, toiletries, household cleaners incl. bleach. Leave lids on but remove pumps/spray nozzles and trigger tops, like those on cleaning sprays and liquid soap.

No bottles that have contained hazardous liquids or engine oil.

Plastic pots, tubs and trays - all colours from food like yoghurt pots, meat and vegetable trays, margarine tubs.

Also, non-food like face creams or hair gel. Rinsed and squashed/nested if possible.

Tins and cans - rinsed and crushed.

Aerosols - empty. Leave nozzles on.

Foil - rinsed and scrunched.

What plastic can't go in the bag?

Sadly, we can't collect all plastics - it's very difficult to find reprocessors for some materials. The following should NOT go in any recycling container:

- Plastic films, bags and wrappers like carrier bags, bread bags, film lids on food trays.
- Flexible packaging like crisp packets, pet food sachets.
- Thick plastics like plastic toys, plastic plant pots, storage crates.
- Polystyrene/expanded polystyrene
- Compostable/bio-degradable cups/ packaging.

Collection day calendars

These are a key part of the orange and blue 'Recycle More is coming soon' leaflet landing on Mendip doormats this week. Specific to individual addresses they give:

- day of the week for collections
- date for first Recycle More collections

For a third of people collection day will be different so please check.

Lights, camera... Recycle More

To help people get to grips with the new service, we've produced a short film explaining how things are changing, how everyone needs to be sorting their recycling with Recycle More, and what happens once recycling is collected. You can watch it here on the SWP website www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more

Online Q&A sessions

We have two more Facebook Recycle More Q&A sessions, including one this Saturday morning. Please join in by visiting the @somersetwaste Facebook page and posting your questions.

- Sat, 10 October, 11am to 12noon
- Thurs 29 October, 7pm to 8pm

You can also join us at the Mendip **Talking Café Live on Wednesday, 14 October, 11am-12noon**, run by the Community Council for Somerset. Join live or watch the recorded <https://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset>

Containers, concerns or worries? Get in touch

For extra guidance and support or to order new or replacement recycling containers for free, you can:

- Contact us through My Account or My Waste Services on the SWP homepage.
- Telephone Mendip District Council on 0300 3038588.

Remember: nothing changes until you get your Bright Blue Bag

