

GRUNDON

SIMPLER RECYCLING

Update following guidance from Defra in May 2025

FAQs



These FAQs reflect the guidance from [Defra's update in May 2025 on Simpler Recycling](#). The information is intended to help businesses understand their responsibilities in line with Simpler Recycling regulations.

Who is affected?

Who does Simpler Recycling apply to?

All businesses in England will be affected by Simpler Recycling but the timeline differs depending on the size of your businesses.

From 31 March 2025, all businesses and non-domestic premises in England with 10 or more full-time employees are required to comply with Simpler Recycling regulations.

From 31 March 2027, micro-businesses (any business with fewer than 10 full time employees must comply with the Simpler Recycling requirements.

Events and public settings

Are events such as festivals in scope of Simpler Recycling?

Yes. Any event generating household-like waste must separate it in line with Simpler Recycling rules.

Do I need to separate waste collected from customer/visitor-facing litter bins?

Yes, from 31 March 2025, waste from both internal and external litter bins must be separated if it is household-like waste.

Waste streams

Do workplaces need to recycle garden waste?

No. Garden waste is not in scope for workplaces unless it is routinely produced.

Is there a minimum amount of food waste required for collection?

No. All workplaces that produce food waste must separate it for collection, regardless of quantity.

What about compostable or biodegradable packaging?

Materials like Vegware or other "compostable" materials are **not** included in the food waste stream and should not be placed in food waste bins. Grundon can provide your business with a dedicated [Compostables Recycling](#) service – contact us today to find out more.

Compliance and legal duties

Who is responsible for ensuring separate waste collections?

The responsibility is shared between waste producers and waste collectors:

- Workplaces must correctly separate and present their waste for collection, in line with Simpler Recycling regulations.
- Waste collectors are responsible for providing services that comply with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

What happens if workplaces do not comply with Simpler Recycling?

The Environment Agency (EA) regulates non-household Simpler Recycling. Their approach includes:

- Initial education and guidance from the waste collector
- Followed by advice for improvement by the waste collector
- And, if needed, formal compliance notices delivered by the EA

Who's responsible for compliance when a workplace bin contains mixed waste?

Both parties are responsible:

- The waste producer must present waste correctly for collection.
- If waste is presented incorrectly, the waste collector should advise the business first and provide guidance on how to get it right. However, if the issue persists, it's the waste collector's responsibility to contact the Environment Agency (EA).

Can paper and card be collected with other recyclables?

Simpler Recycling requires paper and cardboard to be collected separately. However, if doing so is not technically or economically practical, or offers no significant environmental benefit, they may be collected together with other recyclables.

Most businesses don't have the space to separate all recyclable materials on-site. That's why the most practical solution for handling dry recyclables is to collect them in a single container. At Grundon, your mixed materials are then sent to one of our state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), which are specifically designed to efficiently sort and separate different materials. This ensures that even when paper, card, plastics, and cans are collected together, they are carefully sorted into clean, high-quality materials ready for reprocessing.

However, for businesses producing large volumes of cardboard, for example logistics companies, a dedicated cardboard collection service is recommended.

What will happen if my business doesn't comply with Simpler Recycling regulations?

From 3 February 2026, the Environment Agency has implemented an hourly time and materials charge of £118 for regulatory work where businesses are found to be non-compliant.