



GRUNDON

SIMPLER RECYCLING

Update following guidance from Defra in July 2026

FAQs



These FAQs reflect the guidance from **Defra's update in July 2026 on Simpler Recycling**. The information is intended to help businesses understand their responsibilities in line with Simpler Recycling regulations.

What you need to know

What did Defra announce about Simpler Recycling in July 2026?

On 16 July 2026, Defra confirmed that the mandatory collection of plastic films and flexible packaging from workplaces and households will be delayed to 1 April 2030.

Prior to this, all local authorities in England were expected to start collecting these materials from the kerbside from 31 March 2027.

Why did the timeline for collecting flexible plastics get delayed?

Defra made the decision to delay mandatory collections of flexible plastics following concerns raised with the waste industry and local authorities over the current capabilities of the collection, sorting and reprocessing system to deliver plastic film recycling collections effectively at scale.

What are flexible plastics?

Common types of flexible plastics (also known as soft plastics) include items such as (but not limited to) crisp packets, bread bags, carrier bags, food pouches and bubble wrap.

Updated key rollout dates

