



Somerset
Council

Waste Services

Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff April 2023



King's Coronation

Crews will collect on Bank Holiday Monday, 1 May.

Collections on normal days for the rest of week.

No collections on Bank Holiday Monday, 8 May.

All collections one day later for rest of week, including Saturday, 13 May.

Recycling sites open normal hours.



King's Coronation: Collection day changes and recycling site opening

With less than a month to go until the coronation of King Charles III, make sure you note changes to collection days and share with family, friends and neighbours.

The extra bank holiday means two consecutive bank holiday weekends and a change to the normal collection routine.

We do not usually collect on bank holidays, but **we will be collecting on bank holiday Monday, 1 May.** Collections on normal schedule for the rest of that week.

No collections on the extra bank holiday Monday, 8 May. Collections will be one day later for rest of the week, incl. Friday 12 May collections taking place on Saturday 13 May.

All 16 recycling sites will open as normal over the weekends (9am-4pm). If opening on a Monday is part of their normal schedule, they will be open both bank holiday Mondays, 9am-6pm. To check queue cameras at nine of our sites visit our [website](#).

Love parties, hate waste

Hosting a coronation event? Do your best to cut waste and remember that recycling is great, but reducing is even better.

Try our [online tips](#) for wasting less while enjoying your coronation party, covering:

- Say no to single use: ask people to bring their own cutlery, crockery, cups and glasses. Hire rather than buy, avoid one-off plastic decorations and make DIY bunting.
- Cut food waste: plan ahead, know your numbers, ask people to bring containers to take home leftovers.
- Recycling: make it part of your planning and nominate someone to take charge.

Waste from events and parties

- Commercial/large events – organisers are responsible for disposing of waste and may need to pay for a commercial [collection](#).

- Non-commercial/small/community events- organisers should ensure recycling and waste is collected and disposed of properly. It could be through recycling sites or if small amounts of waste then through kerbside collections (perhaps split over a couple of weeks).
- House and garden parties - organisers should ensure recycling and waste is collected and disposed of properly. It could be through kerbside collections (perhaps split over a couple of weeks) or taken to your nearest recycling site.

What's in the bin?

We recently took a look through the refuse bins of 500 sample households, separating the contents into different material types.

Looking at our waste will help us understand what Somerset is still throwing away and not recycling. We'll use this to plan ahead and decide what materials to target as we try to get even more out of people's bins and into recycling boxes and bags.

At 56.2% in 2021-22, our recycling rate has never been higher, but we want to do even better.



Summer hours for recycling sites

Our 16 recycling sites are now open on their summer hours. When your local site is open on a week day, it will be open from 9am-6pm.

The year-round Saturday and Sunday hours remain 9am-4pm. Sites can get busy at peak times. Nine have online [queue cameras](#) you can check before setting off.

New council, new website

Somerset Council is now up and running, taking on responsibility for all waste services – including collections and recycling sites.

Very little has changed, but our online info has moved to www.somerset.gov.uk/waste

You can still do everything you could do on the old SWP website, including ordering containers, subscribing to our garden waste service, checking your collection days and reporting missed collections.

Our @somersetwaste Twitter and Facebook channels remain for all things recycling and waste related.

Batteries: recycle with care



Batteries put in your refuse bin or left loose in recycling boxes or bags are a serious danger.

They can start fires when crushed in the truck or at the depot - causing damage, disrupting collections and risking lives.

Remove batteries from gadgets, toys or devices (including vapes) and put them out for recycling in a clear, tied plastic bag. Put this on top of one of your recycling boxes where it can be clearly seen.

If batteries cannot be removed, put the whole item out for recycling as a small electrical - in an untied carrier bag left on top of a recycling box.