



WINCHESTER  
STUDENT UNION

# A-Z Guide To Recycling



# Introduction

Welcome to this guide to recycling in Winchester! Inside you will find information on how to best reduce, reuse, recycle, or dispose of items, to help you live a greener and more sustainable life whilst in Winchester, and beyond!

At Winchester Student Union we believe that we should treat the world around us with care and respect, and that our global peers should be shown empathy and understanding in both business and personal communication and transactions.

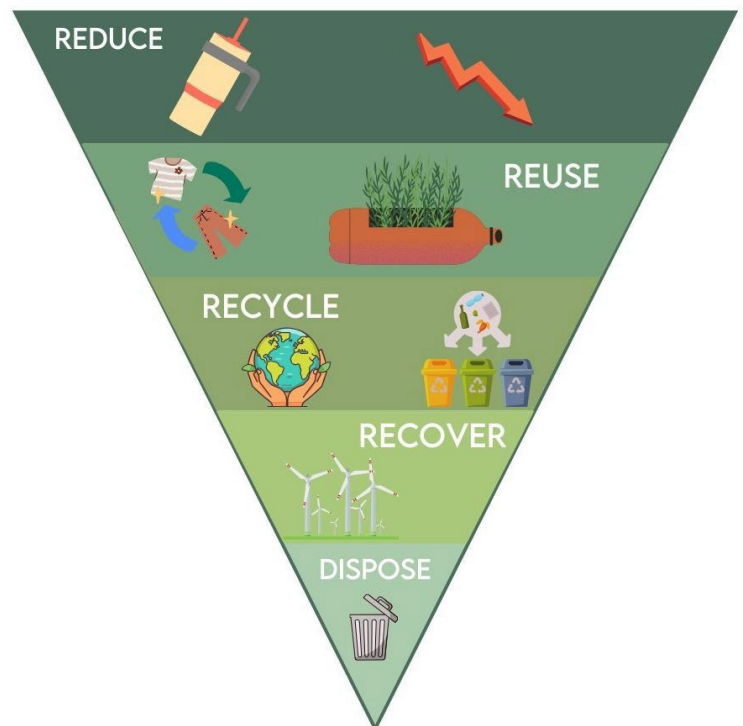
## Benefits of recycling

Recycling reduces the need to grow, harvest or extract new raw materials from the Earth. That in turn lessens the harmful disruption and damage being done to the natural world: fewer forests cut down, rivers diverted, wild animals harmed or displaced, and less pollution of water, soil and air.

## Using this guide

The following symbols are used throughout:

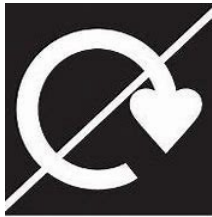
## THE WASTE Hierarchy



Reduce	Reuse	Recycle at Home	Recycle at a HWRC	Non-Recyclable	Hazardous
					

## Understanding recycling labels

There are a lot of different recycling symbols on packaging, aimed at different people with different meanings. Here are a few:



Not Currently  
Recycled

### Not Currently Recycled

Anything with this label should be placed in with general rubbish.

### Check Locally

You might find this label on some plastic packaging. In Hampshire, **only plastic bottles can be recycled**. Any plastic pots, tubs, and trays need to go into the general rubbish bin.



Check  
Locally



Widely  
Recycled

### Widely Recycled

These items are widely recycled – however, **not everything with this label can be currently recycled in Hampshire**. Only the following 5 items can be put in your recycling bin:

- Tins and cans
- Aerosols
- Plastic bottles
- Paper
- Card

## Further information

For further information on recycling, or on anything stated in this guide please go to the Hampshire County Council's '[Waste Prevention and Recycling](#)' webpage.

There, you can find out how to further recycle or dispose of items, your rubbish collection day, and find your local **Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)**.

## Did you know?

In Hampshire...



(Image source: Hampshire County Council)















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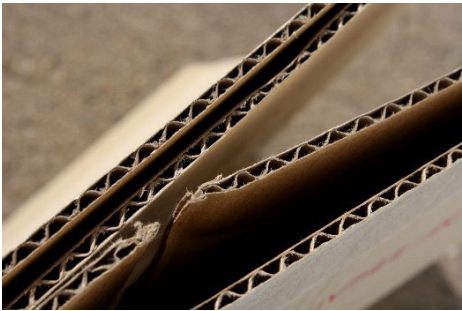








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Material	Reduce/Reuse	Recycle/Dispose
<b>Aerosol Cans</b>		
	<p>Try refillable or package free alternatives, like solid deodorant bars.</p> 	<p>Recycle empty aerosol cans in your recycling bin at home.</p> <p>Cans marked with a skull and cross bones or black cross must be thrown away.</p> 
<b>Ammunition</b>		
	N/A	<p>Contact local police to dispose.</p> <p>Cannot be recycled at a HWRC.</p>
<b>Animal waste</b>		
	<p>Some brands of animal bedding are compostable. Check your packaging for advice.</p>	<p>You can deposit a maximum of two bin bags of animal waste (domestic pets only) per household per day at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Asbestos</b>		
	N/A	<p>This material will be accepted as part of your household's DIY waste allowance at a licensed site.</p>  
<b>Bath</b>		
	<p>Baths can be advertised on reuse sites such as Freecycle, Freecycle or eBay, and are easy to upcycle.</p> <p>If you're feeling creative, you could even reuse your bath to make a bespoke pond or planter in the garden!</p> 	<p>Baths can be taken to your local HWRC for disposal. Please see site staff for guidance on which container to use.</p> 











<b>Batteries</b>	 <p>Consider investing in rechargeable batteries to reduce your waste. It could even save you money in the long run.</p> 	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> <p>Cannot be recycled at home!</p> 
<b>Bedding, quilts, pillows and sleeping bags</b>	 <p>Charity shops and homeless shelters will often take good quality bedding.</p> <p>If your bedding has seen better days, animal shelters and wildlife centres might accept them. Please contact charities directly for further information.</p> 	<p>You can take these items to your local HWRC for disposal.</p> <p>Please see site staff for guidance on which container to use.</p> 
<b>Books</b>	 <p>There are so many ways to reuse your books! Donate them to your local charity shop, sell them on, or take part in a book swap.</p> 	<p>Cannot be recycled at your local HWRC or at home.</p> <p>If you cannot reuse them, they should be placed in your household waste bin for disposal.</p> 
<b>Bubble wrap</b>	 <p>Keep hold of your bubble wrap for gift giving or packing. It could even be used to keep your wormery warm!</p> 	<p>Bubble wrap cannot currently be recycled at home or at your local HWRC.</p> <p>If it cannot be reused it should be placed in your household waste bin for disposal.</p> 

<b>Car batteries</b>		<p>N/A</p> <p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Cardboard</b>	 <p>Can you reuse your cardboard boxes for packing, storage or giving gifts? Cardboard boxes can also be used to make gift tags and greetings cards.</p> 	<p>Can be recycled at home or at your HWRC.</p> <p>Greasy cardboard, such as pizza boxes, is not suitable for recycling and should be placed in your household waste bin for disposal.</p> 
<b>Carpets</b>	 <p>Furniture reuse charities may take good quality carpets. If your carpet is in small pieces or poor condition, animal shelters and wildlife centres might accept it. Alternatively, you can offer your carpet to others via Facebook or Freecycle, for use at your local allotment!</p> 	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Cartons and Tetrapacks</b>	 <p>Consider visiting your local zero waste shop and trying out refillable containers instead of purchasing cartons and Tetrapaks.</p> 	<p>Unable to be recycled at home or at your local HWRC.</p> <p>Please place these items in your household waste bin.</p> 


















<b>Real Christmas Trees</b>	 <p>You could purchase an artificial Christmas tree to use for years to come, but it is also important to consider the carbon footprint of manufacturing artificial trees.</p> <p>Or, replant your tree at home/contact your local Christmas tree farm to find out if they will replant your tree.</p> 	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Clinical waste and sharps/healthcare</b> 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Please contact your local district council to find about any clinical waste collection services they offer.</p> 
<b>Clothing</b> 	<p>Shopping for second-hand clothes or "thrifting" is becoming more popular than ever. Donate your clothes to a local charity shop, or sell them on platforms such as eBay, Vinted or Depop.</p> 	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Cooking oil</b> 	<p>To reuse your cooking oil, allow it to cool to room temperature, strain it through a sieve to remove any leftover food and store it in a reusable container.</p> 	<p>Cooking oil cannot be accepted at HWRCs.</p> <p>It should be placed in a sealed container and placed in your general waste bin at home.</p> <p>Do not pour it down the sink.</p> 
<b>Crutches/walking frames/wheelchairs</b> 	<p>If your local hospital or GP provided you with a mobility aid temporarily, you should return these items for reuse.</p>	<p>Cannot be recycled at home or at your local HWRC.</p> 

CDs and DVDs		
	Rather than disposing of CDs and DVDs, try selling them online! Ziffit is a handy platform for selling used DVDs, CDs, books and games.	CDs and DVDs can be placed in your household waste bin at home.
		
Electrical equipment and appliances		
	A number of charities will accept electrical items and white goods for reuse, or you could visit your local Repair Café to get those old appliances working again.	Recycle at your local HWRC.
		
Engine oil		
	N/A	Engine oil can be taken to your local HWRC in a sealed container. A maximum of 10 litres can be deposited per household per six months.
		
Explosives		
	N/A	HWRCs are not licensed to accept ammunition or explosives. Please contact your local police station for advice.
Fire extinguishers		
	N/A	Fire extinguishers are only accepted at HWRCs if the manufacturer is unable to take them back.
		












<b>Flares</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Flares are not accepted at HWRCs.</p>
<b>Food waste</b>		
	<p>There are many easy ways to reduce your food waste, as simple as cooking with leftovers, making better use of your freezer, and understanding your best before dates.</p> 	<p>If you do not have access to a compost bin, you should place unavoidable food waste in your household waste bin.</p> 
<b>Fridges/Freezers</b>		
	<p>A number of charities will accept fridges or freezers for reuse, or you could try your hand at repair!</p> <p>Many retailers also offer take-back schemes when you purchase a new item.</p> 	<p>Fridges and freezers can be taken to your local HWRC for recycling and safe disposal. Appliances should be brought whole, with no parts removed.</p> 
<b>Fuel</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Fuels are not accepted at HWRCs.</p>
<b>Furniture</b>		
	<p>Upcycling second-hand furniture is a great way to create bespoke items for your home whilst saving some pennies! Alternatively, remember to pass on your items via platforms such as eBay, Freecycle or Facebook Marketplace.</p> 	<p>Furniture can be taken to your local HWRC where site staff will tell you which container to use. If your items are in good condition they will be sold on for reuse.</p> 













<b>Garden waste</b>		
	<p>Garden waste can be composted at home using a compost bin or leave them on the lawn, which is good for both your garden and its wildlife. Grass cuttings can also be used as a mulch for your garden.</p> 	<p>Garden waste can be taken to your local HWRC. From here it is taken to be turned into Pro-Grow Soil Conditioner which is available to buy from all HWRCs.</p> 
<b>Gas bottles</b>		
	<p>Some manufacturers may be able to take gas bottles back for reuse or refilling. Please contact the manufacturer directly.</p> 	<p>Your local HWRC can accept gas bottles up to 15kg in size, either propane or butane.</p> 
<b>Halon fire extinguishers</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Fire extinguishers are only accepted at HWRCs if the manufacturer is unable to take them back.</p> 
<b>Household and garden chemicals</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Hazardous household waste is accepted at 11 specially licensed HWRCs. Such items must be delivered in a suitable sealed container. Speak to site staff who will ensure hazardous waste is disposed of correctly.</p> 
<b>Insulation</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Insulation materials, such as loft or oblique wall insulation, can be disposed of at a HWRC.</p> 










Japanese Knotweed			N/A	Japanese Knotweed and soil contaminated with it and some other controlled plants cannot be accepted at sites under any circumstances.
Junk mail			Did you know you can sign up to the Mail Preferring Service for free, which removes your details from up to 95% of direct mail lists? 	Recycle at home. 
Knives and Scissors			If your scissors or knives aren't cutting very well, they can easily be sharpened to make them last longer. Contact your local Repair café to find out if they are able to offer scissor or knife sharpening. 	Recycle at your local HWRC.  Wrap the blade carefully in cardboard or fabric, such as a tea towel, to transport safely to the HWRC and hand to site staff. 
Laptops, computers and tablets			Laptops, computers and tablets should be donated or sold for a new lease of life! Try selling your item online using platforms such as Facebook Marketplace or eBay. 	If your laptop, computer or tablet cannot be repaired, it should be placed in a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment drop off point for recycling and safe disposal.
Lawnmowers			Some local organisations may accept lawnmowers for reuse or repair. Please contact them directly for details of what they can accept. 	Electric lawnmowers and other electric household garden machinery can be taken to your local HWRC for recycling and safe disposal. 
Lids			There are lots of great refill shops in Hampshire, where you can refill your containers with dried goods and household cleaning materials. 	Recycle at your local HWRC. 










<b>Lightbulbs</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Energy efficient light bulbs and fluorescent tubes can be recycled at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Magazines</b>		
	<p>Lots of magazines now offer online subscriptions, sometimes for a reduced price.</p> 	<p>Magazines should be placed in your recycling bin at home.</p> 
<b>Mattress</b>		
	<p>Many shops offer take back schemes for mattresses when you buy a new one, some have partnered with charities to reuse mattresses.</p> 	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Medicines</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Medicines cannot be accepted at HWRCs.</p> <p>Medicines can be returned to your local dispensing chemist for safe disposal.</p>
<b>Mercury thermometers</b>		
	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The mercury in these thermometers is a hazardous substance and should never be placed in your household waste bin or in your recycling. You can dispose of mercury thermometers at 11 HWRCs where hazardous waste is accepted.</p> 

<b>Mobile phones</b>	 <p>Many mobile phone retailers will take old phones back for recycling or refurbishment, or you could consider selling your old devices via online platforms such as Freecycle, eBay or Facebook Marketplace.</p> 	<p>Mobile phones can be taken to your local HWRC for recycling. Please ensure that SIM cards are removed and personal data is deleted from the device.</p> 
<b>Newspapers</b>	 <p>Why not save your newspapers for a craft project? It is ideal for paper mache!</p> <p>Newspaper can also be used as packing material when moving house or wrapping delicate gifts</p> 	<p>Newspapers should be placed in your recycling bin at home.</p> 
<b>Paint</b>	 <p>You can donate your leftover paint to Community RePaint, a UK wide network redistributing surplus paint at reduced prices to those who need it.</p> 	<p>Paint can be taken to your local HWRC to be deposited in a suitable, sealed container. A maximum of five litres per month per household can be deposited.</p> 
<b>Paper</b>	 <p>Paper of all colours and sizes is ideal for crafts, especially for children either in school or at home.</p> <p>Keeping hold of scrap paper can also be useful when writing shopping lists or packing fragile items.</p> 	<p>Shredded paper, gift wrap, wet/soiled paper, tissues, paper towels or photographs cannot be recycled and should be placed in your household waste bin.</p> 










<b>Shredded paper</b>	 <p>Shredded paper makes great packing material when moving house or giving delicate gifts. You could even use it as pet bedding (please be aware that some ink can be harmful to pets if ingested).</p> 	<p>Shredded paper cannot be placed in your recycling bin at home or at your local HWRC.</p> <p>Please place shredded paper in your household waste bin.</p> 
<b>Pesticides</b>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Hazardous household waste includes pesticides, white spirit, anti-freeze, oven cleaners, weed killers, insecticides, lubricants, and drain cleaners. Usually identified by a black and orange hazardous symbol on the packaging/bottle.</p> 
<b>Plasterboard</b>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>This material will be accepted as a part of your household's DIY waste allowance.</p> 
<b>Plastic bags and wrapping</b>	 <p>Reduce your plastic bag waste by remembering your reusable bags when shopping! You can also purchase loose fruit and vegetables to reduce the quantity of soft plastics you take home.</p>	<p>Please dispose of plastic bags and wrapping in your household waste bin at home.</p> 

<b>Plastic bottles</b>	 <p>Try to reuse your plastic bottles whenever possible or consider buying a reusable bottle. as this may last longer. Lots of cafes now offer free water refills if you're out and about. Look for the 'Refill' sticker in the window.</p> 	<p>Please recycle at home</p> 
<b>Plastic packaging, pots, tubs and trays</b>	 <p>There are lots of great refill shops in Hampshire, so why not consider refillable options for a range of items, from cleaning products to pasta.</p> 	<p>Please dispose of plastic packaging, pots, tubs and trays in your household waste bin at home.</p> 
<b>Polystyrene</b>	 <p>Keep hold of your polystyrene for packing delicate items. If you can't use it yourself, try offering it to your neighbours via online platforms such as Nextdoor, Olio or Facebook.</p> 	<p>Please dispose of polystyrene in your household waste bin at home or in the non-recyclable waste container at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Printer cartridges</b>	 <p>N/A</p>	<p>If take-back schemes are not available to you, printer cartridges should be placed in your household waste bin at home.</p> 
<b>Rubble</b>	 <p>Try advertising rubble online via platforms such as Freecycle, Nextdoor and Facebook Marketplace. You never know who could be looking for the thing you're trying to get rid of!</p> 	<p>Rubble will be accepted as a part of your household's DIY waste allowance.</p> 



<b>Sinks, toilets, and shower trays</b>		
	<p>Try advertising ceramic sanitary ware including sinks, pedestals and toilet cisterns online via platforms such as Freegle, eBay and Facebook Marketplace.</p> 	<p>Sinks, toilets and shower trays are accepted as a part of your household's DIY waste allowance.</p> 
<b>Soil</b>		
	<p>Try advertising soil online via platforms such as Freegle, Nextdoor and Facebook Marketplace. You never know who could be looking for the thing you're trying to get rid of!</p> 	<p>This material will be accepted as a part of your household's DIY waste allowance.</p> 
<b>Tins and cans</b>		
	<p>Tins and cans are great materials for craft projects in schools or in the home!</p> 	<p>Please recycle at home.</p> 
<b>Tools</b>		
	<p>Before disposing of your old tools, consider repairing them! If you no longer have a need for your tools, the Repair Cafe may accept them as a donation.</p> 	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Towels</b>		
	<p>Charity shops and homeless shelters will often take good quality towels. If your towels have seen better days, animal shelters and wildlife centres might accept them. Please contact charities directly for further information.</p> 	<p>You can take towels to your local HWRC for disposal. Site staff will tell you which container to use.</p> 



<b>Tyres</b>	 <p>Before disposing of your tyre, consider if you can repair it. You can find tutorials online, or you can visit your local Repair Café.</p> 	<p>Tyres can no longer be disposed of in landfill sites, and will not be accepted at HWRCs. They should be taken to a local garage or tyre and exhaust centre where they will be disposed of safely (a small charge may apply).</p>
<b>Upholstered domestic seating</b>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Ensure waste upholstered domestic seating is kept whole where possible. This can be done by wrapping with plastic, such as bin bags, over the exposed areas and taping in place.</p> 
<b>Vapes and e-cigarettes</b>	 <p>Vapes, e-cigarettes and batteries should never be placed in your household waste bin at home as they pose a serious fire risk at waste facilities.</p>	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Wood</b>	 <p>Upcycling wood is a great way to create bespoke items for your home or garden whilst saving some pennies!</p> 	<p>Recycle at your local HWRC.</p> 
<b>Yoghurt pots</b>	 <p>Yoghurts pots are great materials for crafting at school or in the home. Try making your own rubbish monster! They can also be used as handy planters for seeds. Visit Smart Living for more information on how to avoid plastics.</p> 	<p>Please dispose of yoghurt pots in your household waste bin at home.</p> 