

Guide to managing waste at home

1. Buy less packaging

If you have the space, bulk buying is a good option to cut down on packaging - many companies offer your favourite everyday products such as liquid soap in a much larger packet to save on packaging. Alternatively, a more eco and zero waste option is to bring your own packaging and refill products such as dry foods and toiletries in health food stores or zero waste refill stores.



2. Replace single use items with a re-usable alternative

Purchasing re-usable items can be more expensive in the short-term but will mean you are throwing less single-use items away and potentially save money in the longer term. Common examples of re-usable alternatives include drinks cups / bottles, bags, cotton pads, straws and takeaway cutlery.

3. Think about going paperless

... Or just using less paper – although paper is recyclable, it degrades in quality each time it is recycled and consequently it is only able to be re-processed about 7 times. Paper is also very easily contaminated by food in a mixed recycling bin, so may not end up being recycling if it is poor quality.

4. Re-use what you can

Think about everything you are throwing away and consider whether you can repurpose that material e.g. cleaning out a used glass candle and using it to put loose change in.



5. Know what your local council can recycle

This is the most important tip because every council is different and has specific requirements for what they can / cannot recycle. Check out your local council's website to find out exactly what should be going in each of your bins.

6. Separate all the waste streams that you can

Once you have checked what your local council can take away, think about what else you are throwing away that could potentially be recycled. For example, if your council does not collect food waste, could you compost it at home? Are producers of your most used items offering take – back schemes for packaging? Some packaging is challenging to recycle if it is made up of multiple materials, some great producer schemes include: [Nespresso](#) coffee pod recycling and the [Boots](#) cosmetic recycling scheme.

7. Clothing / shoe recycling

Clothing, shoes and accessories are one of the easiest waste streams to recycle. When donating or selling items, make sure they are of a quality that you would be happy to receive if you bought something second-hand. If the items you are throwing away are low quality donate to a textile recycling bank, these are usually located in supermarket or local car parks. Donation options include: [charity shops](#), clothing recycling banks such as [Traid](#) and home collections by charities or [collection services](#).