

# Somerset Waste Partnership

## Briefing for Members, Partners and Staff

### November 2020



Christmas and New Year 2020/21	
Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Thu 24 Dec	No change
Fri 25 Dec	Mon 28 Dec
Mon 28 Dec	Tue 29 Dec
Tue 29 Dec	Wed 30 Dec
Wed 30 Dec	Thu 31 Dec
Thu 31 Dec	<b>Sat 2 Jan</b>
Fri 1 Jan	Mon 4 Jan
Mon 4 Jan	Tue 5 Jan
Tue 5 Jan	Wed 6 Jan
Wed 6 Jan	Thu 7 Jan
Thu 7 Jan	Fri 8 Jan
Fri 8 Jan	<b>Sat 9 Jan</b>
Mon 11 Jan	Usual collections resume



### Xmas shopping: think outside the box

Think laterally is the advice for festive shoppers, as online shopping can mean tonnes of extra cardboard packaging.

It can be recycled, but producing and collecting it adds to the financial and carbon costs - and puts a burden on your crews. Consider gifts without cardboard or lots of unrecyclable plastic:

- Vouchers for attractions or shops
- Digital subscriptions
- Memberships for free days out

You can also "shop local", supporting Somerset's hard-pressed traders, who may also be able to do home delivery but keep packaging to a minimum.

If you end up with excess festive waste, remember our 16 recycling sites. Except for three days - Christmas, Boxing and New Year - all are open as usual. And do check your collection dates with My Collection Day at [somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk).

As usual, there are no garden waste collections Friday 25 December to Friday

8 January (inclusive). Friday 8 January collections will be on Saturday 9 January; usual garden waste collections resume from Monday 11 January.

Your options for decoration-free real Christmas trees include: composting, add it to the garden's wild corner, or take to any recycling site; garden waste subscribers can add it to a collection.

### Flying start for Recycle More

Mendip residents have got Recycle More off to a flying start, blazing a trail for other parts of Somerset next year.

Impressive early results show that thousands of tonnes and millions of items will be rescued from the rubbish each year to become new packaging and products. This helps tackle climate change, protects our environment, and saves £2m a year for other vital services.

Around 53,000 homes now have expanded kerbside collections taking far more each week: rigid household plastic pots, tubs and trays; cartons/Tetra Paks, household batteries and small electrical items.



Residents have a new recycling container – a Bright Blue Bag – and more recycling means less rubbish, so this is collected every three weeks instead of every two.

Mendip is the only part of the county starting Recycle More this year. It is being rolled out in stages over 18 months, so each collections depot can be upgraded to take the extra recycling.

Recycle More is due in South Somerset in summer 2021, and the rest of the county by early 2022.

For more on Recycle More, see [somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more).

### **COVID-19: safety measures continue**

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) and its contractors are working hard to maintain all kerbside collections and keep recycling sites open.

SWP is also highlighting Government guidance on how to dispose of waste if you have COVID symptoms or live in a household with someone who does.

Personal waste, such as tissues and facemasks, should be double-bagged in disposable rubbish bags and kept separate from other waste in the home for 72 hours. It should then go into your rubbish bin to be collected.

All residents should maintain social distance from collection crews and disinfect container handles before and after putting out recycling and rubbish.

Government guidance considers recycling site visits "permitted journeys".

Site safety includes:

- No one with COVID symptoms or asked to shield should visit sites
- Strict social distancing
- Visitors are asked to wear gloves
- Maximum of two per vehicle from the same household

Masks are discretionary and site staff are not able to give their usual assistance in lifting heavy or large items.

The Reuse Shop at Taunton Recycling Centre is closed during lockdown.

For more on COVID-19, check: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Next time:** Weather, and waste in 2021.

### **Somerset Waste Board**

SWP's governing body has two members from each of five partner councils: **Mendip** Cllrs Tom Ronan, Matthew Martin; **Sedgemoor** Cllrs Janet Keen, Andrew Gilling; **Somerset County** Cllrs David Hall, Clare Paul (Vice Chair); **Somerset West and Taunton** Cllrs Sarah Wakefield, David Mansell; **South Somerset** Cllrs Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB agendas: [somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk/somerset-waste-board)

### **Information on SWP services**

Visit [somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk) for advice and to sign up for our e-newsletter. Follow @Somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter. All partner customer services can assist with enquiries.