

Christmas collection dates

Festive waste collections – recycling and rubbish, assisted pick-ups and clinical waste but not garden waste – will be two days later after Christmas, including Friday collections on Sunday, and one day later after New Year.

Usual day	Revised day
Mon 23 Dec	No change
Tue 24 Dec	No change
Wed 25 Dec	Fri 27 Dec
Thu 26 Dec	Sat 28 Dec
Fri 27 Dec	Sun 29 Dec
Mon 30 Dec	No change
Tue 31 Dec	No change
Wed 1 Jan	Thu 2 Jan
Thu 2 Jan	Fri 3 Jan
Fri 3 Jan	Sat 4 Jan
Mon 6 Jan	Back to usual

As usual, there will be no garden waste collections from 24 December to 3 January; they resume from 6 January.

Before and after Christmas and New Year, please do not overload our vehicles or crews. Put excess materials from festive parties, internet deliveries and Christmas clear-ups out over time or take them all to a recycling site.

Individual recycling site opening days vary – [check details here](#) – but the network is open every day of the year except Christmas, Boxing and New Year days. All sites will be open 9am to 4pm

on Saturdays and Sundays on 21-22 and 28-29 December, and 4-5 January.

Your recycling options for a real Christmas tree include: home composting, take it to a recycling site or council drop-off point, or book a charity collection. Garden waste subscribers only can add their undecorated tree under 6ft to their garden waste collection from 7 January.

Parish councils: if you are planning to organise or know of local drop-off or chipping points for real Christmas trees (except for those run by South Somerset District Council), please let SWP know via recycle@somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Missed collections

If a home's rubbish or recycling is out by 7am but still there at the end of the day, what needs to happen next and how can councillors and parish councils help?

First, apologies for the inconvenience and be assured that we are doing everything possible to prevent missed collections, and to make return pick-ups.

If everyone in a street is missed, there is no need to report this as we will know and be returning – often from 7am the next day, and usually within two working days – to make the collection. For a single missed home, missed materials or other small-scale issues, contact [district council customer services](#). Further

options include: if space, store materials until the next collection; if time and transport, take it all to [any recycling site](#).

How councillors and parish councils can help tackle missed collections:

ensure all reports or complaints you pass on include the name, full address, email and phone of the person affected.

Do encourage residents to:

- Have all waste out by 7am
- Sort materials without plastic bags
- Rinse all containers
- Squash all but glass and aerosols
- Flatten all card
- And stack recycling boxes with locked food waste bin on top

Recycle More's new trucks

The new recycling vehicles designed for the expanded Recycle More collections in Somerset are now being built.

Colourful, efficient and with the technology essential to ensure more reliable collections, the trucks will collect the dozen or so materials already taken kerbside, plus all the thousands of tonnes of new items:

- Household and food plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Tetra Paks and other beverage cartons
- Household batteries
- Small electrical items

All that extra recycling will leave rubbish bins far emptier so these will then be collected every three weeks. Recycle More collections will begin in Mendip

next summer and roll out in phases across Somerset over 18 months. Details will be delivered to every home – and to every councillor and parish council – well ahead of time, and full support will be available for anyone concerned they may have problems.

Latest media

Our latest communications include:

- [Stay safe on Bonfire Night](#)
- [Pumpkin plea to save Halloween](#)
- [As clocks go back, check electrics](#)

Future focus: how to have a low-waste less plastic Christmas; food recycling; where Somerset's recycling goes.

Somerset Waste Board

SWP's governing body has two members from each of five partner councils, one of which is the portfolio holder for environment and/or waste: **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 Alan Wedderkop, David Mansell; **South Somerset** Sarah Dyke (Chair), Tim Kerley. SWB's next meeting is 20 December. SWB agendas and papers are available [online](#).

Information on SWP services

Visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk for advice. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Sign-up to our e-zine on our [website](#). All partners' customer service helplines can assist with enquiries.