

## Business of Recycling Wales- Webinars

### Residential Sector 6 February 2024

#### Q&As

This document presents WRAP Cymru’s answers to the questions delegates asked during the Residential Sector webinar held at 2pm on 6 February 2024. We have grouped questions by theme, sometimes there is a single answer for multiple questions.

Code of Practice - [Separate Collection of Waste Materials for Recycling: A Code of Practice for Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

[The Business of Recycling Wales Guidance for all workplaces \(wrapcymru.org.uk\)](http://wrapcymru.org.uk)

Question	Response
<b>Questions relating to types of materials for recycling</b>	
Can we recycle black plastic food trays from ready meals?	Black plastic should not be put with the recyclable plastic but in the bin for non-recyclable waste. This is as set out in annex 2 of the Code of Practice.
Are we able to put medication blister packs into the plastics waste even though they often have a foil backing?	No, blister packs should not go into the plastics packaging. You may be able to find a specialist provider for this material (it is not a requirement of the new regulations) or you should put it in the bin for non-recyclable waste. The materials to be placed in the recyclable waste streams are set out in detail in annexes 1 to 6 of the Code of Practice.
What are the rules for liquid or semi-liquid food waste and whether it can be sent to sewer (this includes items such as, milk, yoghurt or soup)?	If you are regularly disposing of large amounts of these types of food waste, you may be able to save money and resources but looking at your practices and ways to prevent waste. There are free resources available here <a href="#">Food Waste Reduction Roadmap   WRAP</a>  The regulations apply to food but not drinks (Code of Practice section 4.13).
What about used recyclable paper coffee/water cups?	Most coffee cups (unless they have plastic biodegradable or compostable linings) need to be separated for recycling. This is set out in annex 2 of the Code of Practice.
Are takeaway coffee cups recyclable, if so, which section do they go in cardboard or plastic?	Under the regulations you are required to separate takeaway cups (unless they have plastic biodegradable or compostable linings). As a minimum they should be separately presented for collection with metal and plastic. However, they can be also collected and presented separately. For detail see annex 2 of the Code of Practice

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We macerate soiled pads, can we continue with this process?	While not directly covered by the new regulations, soiled pads should be categorised as either offensive or clinical waste and must be collected separately. You should contact a suitable waste contractor for the collection of this material.
What bag do we put textiles in?	The separation requirements only apply to unsold textiles. Your contractor should be able to offer you ad-hoc collections as and when you need them. The definition of 'unsold' is set out in the section 9 of the Code of Practice - Glossary.
We generate small amounts of other types of waste - textiles, electricals, by-products of maintenance - that don't justify regular collections. How do we deal with these?	Your waste contractor may be able to offer an ad-hoc collection, if they can't, you can contact your local council or another collector.
What do we do with paper towels?	Please put them in the non-recyclable waste bin (see annex 3 of the Code of Practice).
Why are we 6 - 7 weeks out from implementation of the legislation and our waste collector has still not been able to communicate what infrastructure will be needed for waste collections? i.e Bags, wheelie bins etc at the kerb side.	Some waste collectors are still firming up their arrangements. Get in touch with them again to see if their plans have developed further.
Is there any specific legalisation to enforce household recycling if resident refuses to recycle.	<p>We are not completely sure about what this question is asking.</p> <p>When waste is disposed of by the residential setting (rather than individual householders), It is the responsibility of business owner to implement the regulations, not your residents.</p> <p>If this question relates to household recycling, then that is not the subject of these regulations. Businesses would not be able to use the same enforcement powers as a council.</p>
What about people with learning disabilities?	<p>You should make appropriate adjustments to your system to ensure that all users are able to understand what they need to do.</p> <p>There is an easy read guide to the new rules here: <a href="https://gov.wales/government/department/department-for-the-economy-and-tourism/industry-and-commerce/industry-and-commerce-topics/waste-management/waste-management-topics/separate-collection-of-waste-materials-for-recycling">Separate Collection of Waste Materials for Recycling (gov.wales)</a></p> <p>Using clear consistent labelling and colours throughout and ensuring staff and / or visitors / or residents receive appropriate information about the new recycling system should help.</p>

Question	Response
	You should then monitor the effectiveness of your system and make changes where improvements are needed.
As a small residential home, all our waste is collected via the council household bins. Will this remain the case? Is this more for bigger homes that employ separate waste contractors?	All non-domestic properties must comply with the regulations regardless of size. You should be using a trade waste collection service provided either by your Local Authority or a private company for the collection of all the waste generated at your premises.
<b>Questions relating to managing recycling systems and space</b>	
Is waste generated by residents in care homes excluded i.e. that generated in their own rooms and lounges?	No, where waste is collected and presented communally by the workplace, the regulations apply. This will include waste from care home residents' rooms.
How do care homes get residents to separate waste e.g. in their own rooms they are likely only to have a waste bin and recycling could become contaminated?	In terms of where bins are placed, it is up to each workplace to decide what will work best for them. Having recycling and waste bins in communal areas accessible by staff, residents and visitors could be a solution rather than having a number of bins in each room.
If we are expecting residents to stream waste, then we will need 4 bins in the place of every single bin now.	
How do we find space for all these additional bins?	
My waste provider claims zero to landfill, and they further stream our general waste as well as dry mixed recycling. if they separate all waste and claim zero to landfill, should I worry too much about separating stuff?	Yes, you must separate materials in line with the recycling guidance. Some operators claim zero waste to landfill and use other disposal techniques, for example energy from waste where the waste is burnt. The recycling will be banned from this process under the new regulations.
Why are the NHS being given two extra years to implement this?	Hospitals (and only hospitals) have until April 2026 to comply with the separation due to the complexities of implementing this in a hospital setting. However, wastes produced by any third-party undertakings on the hospital premises, for example newsagents or cafes or coffee shop franchises, are covered by the separation requirements from 6 April 2024. See section 5.13 of the Code of Practice.
Are the different bins being provided?	You will need to talk to your waste collector.
Is there any financial assistance available as this is costing us additional money?	No financial support is being provided, however, all businesses in Wales will be required to meet these regulations. There are other forms of support available to implement the changes (variety of guidance, Question Response tools, such as sector-specific guidance and best practice case studies, downloadable signage, communication assets).

Question	Response
	<p>While businesses may face initial investment costs, it is anticipated that the Regulations will support the majority of workplaces over time to divert waste from the residual stream and reduce the amount of waste they produce, leading to reduced waste management costs overall. See case study examples featured, Canton Food Market and Sinclair Motors</p> <p><a href="#">Workplace Recycling Case Study Films - YouTube</a></p>
<b>Other questions</b>	
Is there a template site audit form available?	<p>Yes, there is a <a href="#">link</a> from the Resources page on <a href="#">The Business of Recycling Wales Guidance for all workplaces (wrapcymru.org.uk)</a></p>
Can recyclables be sent for incineration if required for infection control?	<p>Infection control should be managed in line with risk assessments/safe operating procedures.</p>
What recycling bags will be required for the separate bins? Just basic clear/white ones?	<p>Depends on your contractor, speak to them to see what they would provide/recommend.</p>

If you've any further questions please send an email to [WalesRecycles@wrap.org.uk](mailto:WalesRecycles@wrap.org.uk) or [CymruYnAilgylchu@wrap.org.uk](mailto:CymruYnAilgylchu@wrap.org.uk).