

Recycling Centre Policy Changes

March 2024

We are introducing two new policies at our Household Waste & Recycling Centres in Bath & North East Somerset next month. An overview of each initiative is set out below for your information.

Change to DIY waste limits

Following recent changes to waste legislation, we are revising the amount of plasterboard, rubble, soil & ceramics householders can dispose at the recycling centres.

From 4th March 2024, we will only accept the following:-

- 2 x 50 litre bags (or equivalent) per visit
or
- one bulky item (eg. bathtub, toilet, basin) per visit

A maximum of four visits per household in a four week period is allowed. The current limit on this type of material is six bags per week.

The Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has introduced these changes to help ensure all local authorities in England are applying fair and consistent limits at their public recycling centres for this type of waste.

The new rules will also further help to deter businesses from illegally disposing of construction and demolition waste at the public sites, while still allowing householders to dispose of small amounts of this type of waste from work they are carrying out themselves.

We'll run a campaign to encourage residents to carrying out work on their home to plan for the disposal of this type of waste in advance – either through a licensed skip / bag hire company, commercial weighbridge or licensed waste removal firm.

Signage is being updated at the recycling centres and residents booking to use either Bath or Midsomer Norton recycling centre will be asked if they are bringing this type of waste and reminded of the limits in place.

Introduction of bag sorting

In 2023, over 2,000 tonnes of bagged waste was disposed of in the residual waste bag skips at our recycling centres.

Waste sampling of these skips suggest around 50% of the contents could have been recycled.

From 4th March 24, residents bringing bagged waste to our recycling centres will be encouraged to split their bags and sort any recyclables into the appropriate

containers. We are positioning a sorting station table, with clearly labelled recycling boxes, in front of the bag waste skips to assist with this.

By encouraging residents to further sort their waste further, we hope to increase recycling levels further and help reduce disposal costs.

Initially we will not enforce bin bag sorting but rather use this to start conversations to educate site users into separating out their recycling. Once residents have been stopped and asked a few times to sort their bin bags on site, it is hoped they will start to do this as habit before they visit in future.

The sorting table will be positioned near the bin bag skip with containers for:

- Plastics and cans
- Batteries
- Glass bottles and jars
- Food waste bin

Further information on our recycling centres is available here –

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/find-recycling-centre>