



**Troubleshooting
your waste
requirements**



**key waste types &
how to handle
them responsibly**

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TYRES

Through punctures, scrapes and general wear and tear, every tyre needs replacing eventually. While this is good for your car, it's bad for the environment - tyres are difficult to recycle because they're made of a combination of steel, rubber and textiles. The typical sight of tyres dumped or set alight led to making sending tyres to landfill illegal.

There is usually a small fee involved (a few pounds per tyre), but your old tyres can then be retreaded (to create 'almost-new' tyres), turned into scrap and used in construction materials and civil engineering, or generate gas and oil through pyrolysis

Can it be recycled?

Yes - many recycling centres are happy to take your tyres off your hands.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

The garage where you've had new tyres fitted will normally dispose of your old tyres for you. Alternatively, you can take them to a recycling centre.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

There's often a limit to how many tyres you can take, and whether you'll be charged, so check with your local authority first



TIMBER WASTE

Wood is a highly valuable resource that can be repurposed in several different ways. Clean wood goes through a sorting process, where it's either recycled into reusable wood, processed into mulch for landscaping, or turned into pulp for paper production.

When reused, timber can be repurposed into panel boards for decking or domestic furnishings like tables and TV stands. It can also be used for biomass energy production, turning waste into renewable energy!

Can it be recycled?

Yes - any recycling centre that accepts wood waste will take your timber.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

Check your local recycling centres to see if they can handle wood and timber. And if there isn't anywhere to take your timber, look for a local composting centre to take it off your hands.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

Wood and timber aren't accepted in household recycling, but most recycling centres do have facilities for them. For an alternative method, wood recycling organisations (like Community Wood Recycling) will collect re-usable wood from you.



WEEE WASTE

Waste Electric Electronic and Equipment - AKA WEEE waste - refers to any end-of-life electrical appliance. This can include everything from fridges and phones to IT and telecommunications equipment. These items are full of hazardous materials like lead, mercury, and cadmium - all of which can leak into the environment and cause harm to wildlife and human health.

Where possible, WEEE waste is decontaminated and any recoverable material is extracted. WEEE waste has a recycling potential of more than 80%, so it's a major source of raw material to be reused!

Can it be recycled?

Yes - WEEE waste goes to a specialist reprocessing centre, where items are dismantled and separated through magnets and electrical currents.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

Find your nearest recycling centre to dispose of your WEEE waste. Many shops have battery bins for you to take advantage of, and some charities also have drop-off points. Different types of WEEE waste go to different recycling points, so make sure you check carefully and plan your trip.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

Taking effect in 2021, the Distributor Take-Back Scheme allows you to recycle your old electrical equipment when you buy a new one. Any large shop that sells electricals will take your old item, and you'll have 28 days after buying your new item to bring your old one in - even if you bought it elsewhere. Some big stores will even accept old electronics whether you're buying or not. Check on their website or phone ahead to make sure.

PLASTERBOARD WASTE

Plasterboard isn't hazardous, but it's still banned from being dumped in landfill sites. This is because the gypsum in plasterboard, when wet or mixed with biodegradable material (e.g. food), produces a toxic gas known as hydrogen sulphide. Plasterboard waste generally arises from demolition projects, off-cuts from new construction projects or rejects from the manufacture of plasterboard.

Recycled properly, 100% of the gypsum-based material is recycled and reused for new plasterboard.

Can it be recycled?

Yes - licenced local plasterboard recycling centres will take your plasterboard and recycle/repurpose it.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

Larger construction projects have tighter regulations on how to dispose of your plasterboard, and have a duty of care to pass their waste on to an authorised carrier. Smaller quantities - domestic or business - can be safely taken to a plasterboard recycling centre.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

Not all recycling centres offer plasterboard disposal and recycling, so make sure to check in advance



HARDCORE WASTE

Hardcore waste is generated by construction projects, and is generally used to describe a mass of combined solids. This includes materials like rubble, bricks, tiles, crushed rock and concrete.

Hardcore is often a significant part of landfill sites. Fortunately, with careful sorting most building waste can be recycled and reused into more building materials. Crushed concrete can be used as a base for new roads, whereas bricks can be cleaned and reused. Reusing as much hardcore as possible reduces the amount that goes into the landfill.

Can it be recycled?

Yes - head to the recycling centre to shift hardcore waste.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

You can take hardcore waste to be recycled, but only in smaller amounts from domestic projects. You'll need to get in touch with your local authority to get advice on how to handle large amounts of hardcore waste.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

Some recycling centres might charge for items classed as householder DIY waste, so you should check locally for any specific requirements before you arrive.



MIXED CONSTRUCTION WASTE

Mixed construction waste includes concrete, wood, steel, glass, and metallic waste like pipes. This waste all together can cause a significant environmental issue, as it can take up valuable space and contribute to pollution.

Fortunately, many of these types of waste can be salvaged and reused. When treated carefully, mixed construction waste can be separated and sorted into categories according to material and recyclability. The sorted waste is then recycled and repurposed accordingly.

There are often limits on how much construction waste you can take to the recycling centre at a time, so always check before disposal.

Can it be recycled?

Yes - most of the constituent parts of mixed construction waste can be recycled, as long as they're properly separated.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

The most practical way of disposing of mixed construction waste is hiring a skip, saving you the trouble of transporting a large volume of bulky waste. Specialist waste handling firms can take it from there.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

The European Waste Catalogue (EWC), also known as the List of Waste (LOW), lists all the different types of waste with classification codes



POPS

Persistent Organic Pollutants - or POPs - are chemical substances that do not break down in the environment, which makes them a danger to human health and the environment.

These can be found in upholstered furniture and seating like sofas, armchairs, bean bags, and home office chairs. POPs can't be accepted at a landfill, which means they should be sent to an authorised disposal site, where the items will be shredded and then incinerated.

Can it be recycled?

Waste containing POPs must be transported to a designated site to be incinerated.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

There are only a few dedicated POP recycling centres, so unless you want a long trip, you can manage POP disposal by letting your council's bulky waste collection take care of your sofas, armchairs, home office chairs and stools. Alternatively, specialist waste disposal firms can take them off your hands safely and easily.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

Individual councils have their own timings and requirements for bulky waste collection, so check them carefully before leaving anything to be collected. Many ask for the POP waste to be separated from other waste and for it to be securely covered with sheeting or tarp.



BULK PALLETS

Pallets are widely used across many industries, due to their versatile and long-lasting properties. What's more, they can be recycled, reused and repaired if damaged. Handled properly, old pallets are taken to a recycling centre, where they're sorted and refurbished where required and then put back into circulation.

Pallets that are beyond repair are recycled, often into either animal bedding or biomass pellets.

Can it be recycled?

Yes - old pallets have a variety of uses and can be easily recycled, even if they're plastic or moulded wood.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

Due to their bulk and need for careful handling, it's better to let a specialist recycling company take care of your pallets. They'll take them off-site and to a local recycling centre or to be treated elsewhere



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

Pallets are often used for creative DIY, so local freecycling groups are also a good choice if you want to help your community out!



SOIL & STONES

Inert wastes include things like sand, soil, stones and concrete. In order to be classified as inert, waste must be clean, not mixed with any other types of waste, and may require analysis to show that it's not contaminated. Before you take it for recycling, it's generally worth separating larger volumes of inert waste from other waste types, as disposal rates are typically lower than for general waste.

Can it be recycled?

Yes - if they are suitable they can generally be re-used as a fill material



Can you easily manage it yourself?

If you're able to transport it, specialist recycling centres will be able to take your inert waste off your hands. Or hire a skip and arrange to get your inert waste collected directly on-site.



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

Typically, inert waste with a high proportion of clay material is unsuitable for recycling.

CONTAMINATED SOIL

Soil can become contaminated in several different ways, including through industrial activity, agricultural chemicals, and oil or fuel spillages. Depending on the type of contamination, contaminated soil can be classified as hazardous or non-hazardous.

Contaminated soil is handled by specialists and dealt with through either treatment, landfill, or some combination of the two. Options for treating contaminated soil include bioremediation - using bacteria to break down the substances in the soil - or physical methods like soil washing, which uses water to separate or remove contaminants

Can it be recycled?

In a sense, yes - contaminated soil is treated to remove contaminants or break down substances in the soil. It can even be reused on site in the right circumstances.



Can you easily manage it yourself?

Contaminated soil needs specialist care to be handled and dealt with properly. Specialists will be able to quickly sample the soil to determine whether it's contaminated with asbestos or other soil. After that, they can get to work on decontaminating the soil or moving it to a specialist facility for further treatment



Is there anything else to keep in mind?

The legalities around contaminated soil can be complex. If in doubt, contact your local council or environment agency



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