

Festive services reminder

Kerbside recycling and refuse collections will take place as usual on Monday 24 December. Between Tuesday 25 December and Friday 28 December, all scheduled collections are two days later, including Friday pick-ups on Sunday 30 December.

Monday 31 December services follow their usual schedule but between Tuesday 1 January and Friday 4 January, all scheduled collections are one day later, including Friday collections on Saturday 5 January.

These revised dates include assisted and clinical waste collection services. Please ensure you have your recycling and waste ready for collections by 7am and no earlier than the night before.

All recycling sites will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve all sites usually open until 7pm will be closing at 4pm. For the rest of the festive period, the sites will follow their usual opening schedule. [Click here to find your nearest recycling site.](#)

For a full list of revised collection days and to download our collection poster, please see our [website](#).

Christmas trees

You can either home compost your tree, take it to a recycling site or, if you have a garden waste subscription, bare trees under 6ft can go out for collection on your usual garden waste collection day from 7 January. Also look out for local charity shredding /collections. As a very

last resort, trees can be sent to costly, wasteful, polluting landfill. Place it next to your rubbish bin on your usual collection day (7-18 January 2019 only).

Can you recycle festive wrap?

Did you know that not all gift-wrap can be recycled after the big day? A lot of wrap is either low quality paper containing few good quality fibres or is a plastic laminate i.e. foil-backed. Some wrap is "contaminated" by plastic glitter, or, is so covered in sticky tape that it cannot be recycled.

Before recycling your wrap, scrunch it to check it is paper – if it springs back it is plastic and should be put in your refuse. If paper, remove sticky tape and decorations and recycle with cardboard.

Winter weather reminder

If there is severe weather, whether snow and ice or rain and floods, kerbside collections may be hit. For SWP's essential advice on weather and waste, please see our [SWP Services and Weather webpage](#), and check our social media feed for advice.

Check Somerset County Council's gritting map at <http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting> to see which routes will be gritted, and visit the [travelsomerset](#) website for route planning.

How paper is recycled

In Somerset 99% of the paper we collect stays in the UK. The largest paper mill we use is run by UPM in Deeside, North Wales. During 2017-18

we sent them 6179 tonnes of paper collected from kerbside collections. They accept a wide range of used paper including leaflets, newspapers, magazines, directories, white envelopes and white printer paper.

All newspaper and magazines received by UPM are reprocessed into newsprint made of 100% recycled paper. For our paper to be in demand by UK mills it needs to be of high quality and not contaminated by other materials. Even cardboard contaminates the paper making process, which is why we ask that paper and cardboard is not mixed for kerbside recycling pick-ups.

The recycled paper we send them is turned into clean white pulp of individual fibres and all the ink and other residues are removed. New newsprint is created by an enormous machine which allows the pulp to progressively be turned into a continuous sheet of paper moving at up to 60mph. At the end of the machine, the paper is wound on to jumbo rolls 8 metres wide which hold approximately 30 tonnes of paper.

To watch a general video of the paper recycling process, click here.

<https://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/paper-0>

Latest media releases

Recent communications included:

- [Proposed recycling centre changes](#)
- [Somerset repair cafes](#)
- [Plastic bottle top recycling](#)
- [#Our Day, Twitterthon 2018](#)

Upcoming communications will focus on festive waste reduction messages.

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, with two members nominated by each of the six Somerset partner councils, one of which must be the portfolio holder for waste and/or the environment. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the Board AGM from its membership. The next SWB meeting is on Friday 14 December 2018. SWB meeting agendas, papers and reports are available [online](#).

For more on SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWB membership:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Nigel Taylor
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – Cllrs David Hall, Mike Pullin
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Derek Yeomans (Chairman)
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllrs Patrick Berry, Hazel Prior-Sankey
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

Information on SWP services

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

