

OUR GUIDE TO BOSSING YOUR BINS

The usual suspects – quick wins for your rubbish bin

These items cannot be recycled and collected by the council, wherever you live in Surrey.

- Bubblewrap
- Cardboard food packaging with food residue or grease
- Coffee pods (aluminium)
- Crisp packets
- Disposable nappies – why not try reusable or cloth nappies instead?
- Empty plastic bags or bin liners (unless you live in Surrey Heath) – why not use bags for life for food shopping or reuse carrier bags?
- Face masks – could you consider swapping to reusables?
- Feminine hygiene pads/products – could you try reusable versions?
- Food pouches – babies and pets
- Incontinence pads
- Padded envelopes
- Plastic bottle pump dispenser units – such as those in liquid soap bottles
- Plastic cups and beakers
- Plastic film
- Plastic food storage containers
- Plastic toys
- Polystyrene
- Make-up remover wipes – why not try reusable make-up remover pads?
- Cleaning wipes – could you try washable cloth to wipe down surfaces?
- Takeaway coffee cups – why not try a reusable cup instead?
- Tissues – please double bag if you have been unwell

It's tempting to recycle everything in sight, but not everything can be. When non-recyclable items are placed in your recycling bin it's known as 'wish-cycling'. It's a big deal because it can ruin the rest of the recycling and costs a lot to sort out. It's also really damaging for the environment.

Some things are destined for the rubbish bin instead. We've made this downloadable list so you can refer to it when you're next throwing things away. It includes some ideas for reducing the amount of waste we produce in the first place.

Always check before you chuck



To avoid wish-cycling it's a good idea to check first. For any items you are unsure about (for example, foil, shredded paper, tetra paks) please check your local guide to recycling services. Look out for your new guide in November.

You can also use our recycling search tool or the free Surrey Recycles app. It's a quick and easy way to ensure you are putting the right things in your bins.

Find out more at: surreyep.org.uk

