

## Briefing Note: Christmas Waste Collections 2025

Over Christmas and New Year, household rubbish and recycling collection days will change. This briefing note includes:

- An outline of the changes to collection days
- Key information to help you support residents
- Details of what we're promoting through leaflets and social media

Every household will receive a leaflet before Christmas. This will highlight the changes to collection days over Christmas and promote the services we offer, including food waste, recycling, garden waste, bulky waste, and commercial waste collections.

### Changes to Household Collection Days

No collections will take place on Christmas Day or Boxing Day (Thursday, 25 December and Friday, 26 December). Collections will take place on Saturday, 27 December instead of Christmas Day, and on Monday, 29 December instead of Boxing Day.

Collections between Monday, December 29, and Friday, January 2, will take place one day later than usual.

| Normal collection due | When it will be collected |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday 22 December    | Normal collection         |
| Tuesday 23 December   | Normal collection         |
| Wednesday 24 December | Normal collection         |
| Thursday 25 December  | Saturday 27 December      |
| Friday 26 December    | Monday 29 December        |
|                       |                           |
| Monday 29 December    | Tuesday 30 December       |
| Tuesday 30 December   | Wednesday 31 December     |
| Wednesday 31 December | Thursday 1 January        |
| Thursday 1 January    | Friday 2 January          |
| Friday 2 January      | Saturday 3 January        |
|                       |                           |
| Monday 5 January      | Back to normal            |

Residents can check and download their updated collection calendar at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/myarea](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/myarea) or call 0300 1234 141. A printed calendar will also be posted to every household before Christmas.

**We'll contact our Commercial Waste customers directly to share any collection changes during the festive period.**

## Key Information to Support Residents:

- **Food waste** - we'll remind residents that food waste like turkey bones, vegetable peelings, and leftovers can be recycled. We'll also encourage planning ahead and buying only what's needed to reduce waste.
- **Extra food waste** - if their caddy is full, extra food waste can go in a compostable liner and be placed next to their caddy on collection day.
- **Extra recycling** - Christmas often means more recycling. Cardboard boxes, cards, envelopes, and wrapping paper (without foil, glitter, or plastic) can go in the orange bag for cardboard. If there's too much cardboard for the bag, it should be flattened, tied, and left next to the recycling. Extra plastics or glass can go in a suitable container for collection.
- **Christmas trees** - we'll only collect real Christmas trees from households with a garden waste subscription. They should put their tree out next to their bin or bag on their garden waste collection day. If they don't have a subscription, they can take their tree to a Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) or use a local charity collection scheme.
- **Batteries and electrical items** – residents should never put batteries or electricals in their rubbish or recycling as they can cause fires. Batteries and electricals can be taken to HWRCs or supermarket recycling points. Visit [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com) for local options.
- **HWRC opening hours** - HWRCs will be open from 9am to 4pm throughout the festive period, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.
- **Commercial waste** - businesses, including holidays lets, must not use household waste services. Commercial waste collections are available at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/commercialwaste](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/commercialwaste). Commercial waste can also be taken to HWRCs at Bude, Newquay, St Austell, St Erth, and Launceston. For details on booking and charges, visit: [Commercial waste at household waste and recycling centres - Cornwall Council](#).
- **Clinical waste collections** – any clinical waste collections scheduled for Christmas Day or Boxing Day will be rearranged directly with the affected residents.
- **Bulky waste collections** – when booking bulky waste collections, customers will be advised of their collection day. We do not collect on Christmas Day or Boxing Day.

# What We're Promoting Over Christmas

Alongside the leaflet, we'll use social media to share helpful tips and festive waste reduction ideas. Posts will include:

- **Collection reminders** – so householders know when their rubbish and recycling will be collected.
- **Recycling tips** – including advice on flattening cardboard, a video on how to tell if wrapping paper is recyclable, and what to do if you have extra recycling.
- **Food waste messages** – encouraging recycling of peelings, bones, and leftovers.
- **Christmas tree guidance** – for garden waste subscribers, and the options available for others.
- **Battery safety** – why batteries should never go in household rubbish or recycling collections, and where to take them.
- **Reuse and reduce ideas** – alternatives to traditional wrapping paper and promoting Cornwall's Kernow Reuse shops as great places to find gifts.

Prepared by: Rachael Reid  
Community Engagement Team Leader – Waste Management  
24 November 2025