CORNWALL COUNCIL
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Briefing Note

Christmas Waste Collections 2026

5 November 2026

Background

Household rubbish and recycling collection days will change over Christmas and New Year. This briefing note includes:

- Changes to collection days
- Key information to help you support residents
- Details of the communications activity planned over the festive period

Changes to household collection days

No rubbish or recycling collections will take place on Christmas Day (Friday 25 December) or Boxing Day (Saturday 26 December).

Collections due on Christmas Day will take place on Monday 28 December. Collections due on Boxing Day will take place on Tuesday 29 December.

Collections from Monday 28 December to Friday 1 January will take place one day later than usual.

Collection due	When it will be collected
Monday 21 December	Monday 21 December (no change)
Tuesday 22 December	Tuesday 22 December (no change)
Wednesday 23 December	Wednesday 23 December (no change)
Thursday 24 December	Thursday 24 December (no change)
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	Friday 1 January
Friday 1 January	Saturday 2 January

Residents can check and download their updated collection calendar at www.cornwall.gov.uk/myarea or check their collection days by calling 0300 1234 141.

We'll contact our commercial waste and clinical waste customers directly to share any collection changes during the festive period.

Key information to support residents

- **Food waste:** Christmas food waste like vegetable peelings, leftovers and turkey bones can be recycled using the food waste collection service. We'll also encourage communities to reduce waste by planning meals and only buying what they need.
- **Extra food waste:** If a household's food waste caddy is full after Christmas, they don't need to order an extra one. Extra food waste can be placed in a liner inside a plastic container, such as an ice cream tub, with the lid left off. The container should be placed on top of the food waste caddy on collection day.
- **Extra recycling:** Christmas often creates more recycling. Cardboard boxes, greetings cards, envelopes and wrapping paper without foil, glitter, or plastic can be recycled. Extra cardboard should be flattened, tied, and put next to recycling bags. Extra plastics or glass can go in a suitable container for collection.
- **Christmas trees:** We'll collect one real Christmas tree from households with an active garden waste subscription. Households must subscribe by 31 December 2026 to receive a collection. Trees should be placed next to their garden waste bin on collection day. Households without a subscription can take their tree to a Household Waste and Recycling centre (HWRC) or use a local charity collection scheme.
- **Batteries and electrical items:** Batteries and electricals should never be put in household rubbish or recycling collections because they can cause fires. Householders can take them to HWRCs or community and supermarket collection points.
- **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. Commercial waste can also be taken to HWRCs at Bude, Newquay, St Austell, St Erth, and Launceston. For details on booking and charges, visit: www.cornwall.gov.uk/hwrc. We'll contact existing commercial waste customers directly to share any collection changes during the festive period.
- **Clinical waste collections:** Clinical waste collections will be rearranged directly with the affected residents.
- **Bulky waste collections:** Customers will be advised of their collection date when booking.

What we're promoting over Christmas

A coordinated communications programme has been developed to help residents understand changes to waste and recycling collections over the festive period. The programme includes:

- Updated household collection calendars
- A Christmas waste webpage: www.cornwall.gov.uk/christmas

- Briefing materials
- Social media content
- Communications through corporate channels
- Media activity
- Information for Town and Parish Councils, community groups and partner organisations

This year, collection calendars will not be delivered to households. Residents will instead be able to view and download their collection information online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/myarea or by calling 0300 1234 141. Information will be shared through partner networks, community channels and local communications to help ensure residents are aware of collection day changes.

A festive communications campaign has been developed, covering:

- Collection day reminders and changes
- Recycling tips and guidance on managing extra recycling
- Food waste reduction and recycling
- Christmas tree collections
- Household Waste and Recycling Centre opening hours
- Battery safety
- Reuse and waste reduction ideas, including promotion of Cornwall's Kernow Reuse shops
- Seasonal waste prevention and sustainable Christmas tips

Communications will be shared through the Council website, social media channels, resident and Town & Parish communications, partner networks and local community channels to maximise awareness of service changes and recycling opportunities over Christmas and New Year.

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