

Why reduce waste?

Our planet has limited resources of raw materials, and a limited capacity to absorb the pollution we create every time we transform those resources into goods and products. Our planet's whole life support system is now in danger, because our consumer society has stressed those limits beyond what can provide a sustainable future for ourselves and for future generations. We have to cut down on the amount we consume and pollute, and the first step in this process is to reduce the amount we waste. This Guide will help you recycle as much as possible, including things which our councils do not presently collect, but recycling alone will not solve the problems we face.

The Waste Hierarchy

Recycling can reduce the amount of new material entering the system, and the energy needed to process it, but this can only ever be a part of the solution. We all need to use the 'waste hierarchy' approach, as it is far better to reduce the amount of stuff we use in the first place, reuse what we have, and re-purpose items where possible, before finally throwing what's left in the recycle bin or compost – hopefully with nothing left for landfill.

Recycling is good for high value and easily recyclable waste such as glass, paper and metal, but the picture is very different for plastic. It is a low value and costly material to recycle, and plastic waste can pretty much last forever. Ideally, single-use plastics should be eliminated completely, and other plastic use reduced as far as possible.

Don't throw it all away

We have to move on from the 20th century model of a throw-away society where we continually buy more new things to one in which things are made to last and to be repairable. Another great way to reduce/re-use is to try our many great charity and secondhand shops and keep an eye out for car-boot sales, bric a brac stalls and jumble sales at churches and community events.

A Guide to Waste and Recycling in Salisbury

REVISED April 2025



Our guide to waste reduction and recycling in Salisbury

	What	Where	Details and contacts
WASTE REDUCTION	Salisbury Market	Market Square and The Maltings	Fresh fruit, vegetables and other produce, mostly available with minimal packaging, or bring your own bags and containers
	Charity shops	Various locations	Donate or buy good second-hand items to save waste, find bargains and support good causes
	Refill shops	Blueberry Den (Winchester Street), Scent Studios (Cross Keys), Neals Yard (Cheese Mkt)	Food, toiletries and cleaning products at Blueberry Den, toiletries at Scent Studio and Neals Yard
	Share Salisbury	c/o Wessex Community Action, Unit 6, Whittle Rd, Churchfields Ind. Est. SP2 7YR	A "library of things" - why buy things you only use occasionally when you can hire? Household items, tools, toys, camping gear etc. www.sharesalisbury.co.uk
	Best At Hire	Faraday Road, Churchfields, SP27NR	Tool hire, in store or online www.bestathire.co.uk
	Salisbury Repair Cafe	Methodist Church Hall, Roman Road, Bemerton SP2 9BH	Operates 2nd Saturday each month, with skilled volunteers available to fix various items www.salisburyrepaircafe.org
	Rise:61 Bike Hub	St. Michaels Community Centre, SP29LE	Social enterprise in Bemerton Heath teaching young people to fix and maintain bikes, also sells repaired cycles www.rise61.org
	Sharing by giving with the Olio app	Online via computer or phone with the Olio app from https://olioapp.com/en/	Anything that's too good to throw away, that you decide you no longer want or need, instead of wasting you can give away to other people in the local area through the Olio app
RECYCLING	Council Services	Kerbside collection service and Household Recycling Centres	Full details including collection days at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling
	Plastic bags and other 'soft' plastics	Various Salisbury supermarkets: Tesco Extra (Southampton Rd), Tesco (Castle St), Sainsbury, Co-op (Wilton Rd), Aldi (London Rd), Waitrose.	Drop-off points for carrier bags and other bags etc. (see signage) mostly near store entrances/exits
	Other plastics, packaging and 'odd' recyclables	Salisbury Recycles for Medic to Medic (charity funding medics in Africa) Various drop-off points, mostly residential	Large number of individual schemes which change from time to time - best to check by email for current schemes in operation to recycle4m2m@gmail.com or kindnessnaturally@hotmail.com
	Cosmetics and toiletries packs	Various retailers	L'Occitane (Butcher Row), Neals Yard (Cheese Mkt), Boots (Silver St)
	Medicines blister packs	Boots (Silver St), Superdrug (Old George Mall)	Also collect unused medicines and used medical items such as inhalers
	Water filters	Various shops	Robert Dyas (Maltings), Sainsbury, Well Natural (Queen St), Tesco Extra
	Batteries	Various shops	Lidl (Southampton Rd), Robert Dyas, Sainsbury, Tesco Extra
	Inkjet cartridges	Various shops	Ryman (Queen St), W.H. Smith (Old George Mall), Tesco Extra