

Recycling site permits rush

Thousands of residents have signed up for free permits to use their trailers, vans or pick-ups at recycling sites after new measures begin on 3 October.

The measures aim to cut congestion, improve services and enhance safety at recycling sites, where visit numbers have jumped to almost 1.6m a year.

Permits are free, bright orange, look like a credit card, take one minute to apply for, and last until 30 September 2019. They must be displayed clearly on the dashboard on every recycling site visit so staff can easily see them.

As well as excluding the largest, hard-to-maneuvre trucks and trailers, the new measures mean out-of-county visitors cannot get a permit.

Most residents, who use a car without a trailer, need no permit and can expect no change, except shorter queues.

Among excluded vehicles from 3 October will be vans with trailers, pick-ups with trailers, vans over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight, box vans, Luton vans, horseboxes, box trailers, and tractors and other agricultural vehicles.

Top tips for a fast visit: sort everything in advance, ask and take site staff advice, and pop in early weekly mornings or 4pm-7pm at the 11 Monday night sites.

For details, including vehicles affected, what business users must do, rules on hire vehicles, and to apply, go to:

www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/permits Not got internet access or need assistance? Every library can help you apply.

When applying for a permit, an emailed and downloadable confirmation means sites can be used temporarily for up to 21 days until the permit arrives.

As well as adverts in most local papers, information at all recycling sites and libraries, alerts on the web and social media, details circulated to all parishes and councillors, a full pull-out guide to the new recycling site measures can be found in the Your September paper recently delivered to all households.

A quick checklist of the new measures - from 8am on Monday 3 October, people bringing in household waste ...

... **need** a free permit to use a single-axle trailer with a car or to use a van or a pick-up (without a trailer).

... **do not need** a permit for a car – estate, 4x4, people carrier, campervan – that is not towing a trailer.

... **can only** apply for permits if they live at a residential address in Somerset.

... **will not** be able to use a Luton van, box van, box trailer, horsebox, multi-axle trailer, tractor, vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight, or trailer more than 3 metres floor length.

... with a hire vehicle, **must contact** recycling site staff on arrival before unloading and show their proof of hire.

... with a permit, **can use** recycling sites on weekdays and only 1pm to 4pm Saturdays at weekends.

Vehicle Procurement

Delivering a service that visits every household in Somerset every week is hugely demanding on vehicles. SWP, working with collections contractor Kier, is finalising procurement of several specialist vehicles to help refresh the aging fleet. These include a number of smaller vehicles able to access the many narrow lanes in the county that are inaccessible by full-sized trucks.

The fleet will include four refuse trucks with an additional “pod” or container on the side, enabling them to collect a combination of materials in a single trip. These podded vehicles will introduce greater flexibility, providing options to improve communal and school collection services. The new vehicles should be appearing on the streets of Somerset this autumn.

Latest media releases

Media releases from SWP in the last month included:

- [Apply now for your recycling site van or trailer permit](#)
- [Kerbside waste collections back on usual schedule](#)
- [Nab the unusual suspects to raise your clear-up rate](#)
- [Free one-day course offer to find compost champions](#)

Somerset Waste Board

SWP is the executive arm of SWB, which consists of two members nominated by each of the six partner councils in Somerset, one of which must be the portfolio holder for waste and/or the environment.

The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected at the annual general meeting from the Board's membership.

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday 30 September.

For details of SWP, SWB and waste services: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

SWB membership by council is:

- **Mendip** – Cllrs Nigel Woollcombe-Adams (Vice Chair), Terry Napper
- **Sedgemoor** – Cllrs Dawn Hill, Gill Slocombe
- **Somerset County** – Cllrs Derek Yeomans (Chair), David Hall
- **South Somerset** – Cllrs Jo Roundell Greene, Clare Aparicio Paul
- **Taunton Deane Borough** – Cllr Patrick Berry, Steve Ross
- **West Somerset** – Cllrs Martin Dewdney, Brenda Maitland-Walker

Agenda, papers and reports for SWB meetings are available [online](#).

Information on SWP services

The main source of advice and information on SWP services is www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.

Customer service helplines for all partner authorities can assist with service enquiries.

SWP publishes the Sorted monthly e-zine (sign-up on the website) and posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

