



Weymouth and Portland u3a 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse/Repair/Refurbish, Recycle) Guide 2025

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Overview

1. The council has extended the items that we can put in our kerbside recycling bins. The new items include tetra packs (eg juice cartons), reasonably-clean foil (which stays 'scrunched' if you crush it – otherwise it's plastic and not collected!) and take-away, non-compostable paper cups and lids. The council has also provided advice on what to do about other lids. Basically, it is now OK to recycle items with lids attached – including plastic lids on plastic bottles and jars, and metal lids on glass jars (put the latter in glass box) See: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk (bins, recycling and litter) for more details
2. The council's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) at Weymouth and Portland can take, and recycle or reuse, most other items (Source: Dorset Council's Waste Promotion Officer). They will be the first port of call for most people with non-saleable, non-repairable items, and pretty well the only port of call for some tricky items, such as gloss paint, household and garden chemicals, disposable razors and broken manual kitchen gadgets like bottle-openers and whisks, but they can be tricky to access for people without cars. Luckily, local or on-line options for most other things are plentiful.

This guide contains a reasonable sample of options for many common items but is **not intended to be comprehensive**. It would be huge! In particular, it only mentions items that cannot be put in the council's fortnightly kerbside collections other than where other facilities may accept a wider range of such goods. For example, you can place the most commonly used household **batteries** (AAA, AA, 'button' and rechargeable) in the Council's pink 'battery recycling' bags or battery boxes for kerbside collection, so only the facilities which accept less-usual ones (like watch or car batteries) have been included. Similarly, Charity shops will take most saleable items including **clothing, soft homeware, bric-a-brac** and **home entertainment**, so only those shops which also take less-commonly accepted items (like broken mobile phones or small electrical items) have been included in this guide.

3. Please note that inclusion in the guide does not imply any endorsement of the facility by the u3a, and as opportunities do come and go we would advise you to check in advance of making any special trips as we cannot guarantee that the facilities will remain available or, indeed, be open.
4. A lot of help and advice about how to reduce waste, and where to refurbish or recycle it, is available online. Some of the most specific sites include:

[About Dorset Council Waste Services and Recycle for Dorset - Dorset Council](#) (The waste promotion officer there is particularly helpful)

[Recycle an item | Recycle Now](#) (This site allows you to specify an item, together with your post code, and provides details of where you can take it, but isn't fully up to date.)

[Recycling – Rubbish Site](#) (This site contains some useful articles on specific recycling dilemmas, such as recycling balloons or broken crockery.)

If you are concerned about litter or waste in the marine environment have a look at the Weymouth and Portland Marine Litter Project's website.

Remember that it is better to reduce, repair or refurbish than recycle so I have also included some of the options for doing these.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed their knowledge to this project.

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Batteries

Recycle

Asda Weymouth (in lobby) - All sizes from 1.5 to 9v

B&Q Jubilee Retail Park (in exit lobby) – All domestic (not car)

Dunelm on Weymouth Gateway - all household batteries (not car batteries) 6v, 9v, AAA, AA, C, D, button and mobile phone batteries, computer batteries and power tool batteries (without connecting wires).

Lidl Hamm Beach Road, Portland (in tube near checkouts)

Marks and Spencer St Mary Street (in box near checkouts)

Tesco Easton (by entrance turnstiles) – Most small household batteries

Bulbs (lightbulbs)

Recycle

B&Q Jubilee Retail Park (in exit lobby) including small fluorescents

Clothing, shoes and accessories

Repair, refurbish or alter

Clothing repairs - try:

Weymouth and Portland Repair Café (see Repaircafeweymouth.org.uk)

So 'n' Sews Westham Road or Timpsons in Asda (Weymouth) Car park

M&S offer a repair service – see: [Give your clothes Another life | M&S](#)

Clothing alterations – try:

The Seamstress, 1 Governor's Lane [07753 322537](tel:07753322537)

Simone's Boutique, 8 Ranelagh Road (Near Weymouth Station)

Shoe repairs - try:

Cobblekeys and Tees (St Thomas Street)

Timpsons in Asda (Weymouth) Car park

Recycle

Asda Weymouth (in car park) – they accept 'Virtually any clothing including shoes, belts, bags and underwear for resale or recycle' in both bins according to the Salvation Army pick-up driver – but be aware that not all the proceeds go to charity

Marks and Spencer St Mary Street (by tills or at top of stairs)

Tesco Easton (in Car Park) - clean. Saleable and non-saleable

Coffee cups (Take away)

Reduce/reuse

Many brands encourage customers to use their own reusable coffee cups by offering discounts or free loyalty stamps. In the Weymouth area these include Costa, Nero and By the Quay (Trinity Street). See <https://www.oceanfinance.co.uk> for a useful article dated April 2025.

<p>Recycle</p> <p>Dorset council now accepts paper non-compostable take-away cups in household recycling bins.</p> <p>In town, Costa, MacDonalds and Nero accept returns of any brands of take-away cups and some of them guarantee that they are recycled. See https://www.cuprecyclingscheme.co.uk for more detail</p>
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<p>Coffee pods</p>
<p>Recycle</p> <p>Podback offers a nationwide recycling service for major coffee brands – see: www.podback.org Morrisons is one provider. You pick up a free ‘Podback Collect’ recycling bag from the customer service desk. The Podback bags can be filled with used coffee pods at home, and returned when full to the service desk. Current participating brands include Nespresso, Tassimo, L’OR, Nescafé Gusto, Starbucks by Nespresso, Starbucks by Nescafé Dolce Gusto, Cru Kafe, Artisan Coffee Co, Allpress Espresso, Colonna Coffee and Café Palmieri by Jomad Coffee. Otherwise you can send pods by post for free.</p>

<p>Computers and other Tec</p>
<p>Reduce and repair – trade-in your older tech for a refurbished replacement Try: Easy PCs on Park Street. They also repair computers.</p>
<p>The Repair Café (see website at Repaircafeweymouth.org.uk) can mend IT and home entertainment technology for a donation</p>
<p>CEx, 36 St Mary Street, Weymouth DT4 8PU https://uk.webuy.com buy and sell modern phones, home entertainment including games consoles and games CDs and DVDs, ITec, cameras and associated accessories etc in saleable condition. You can check value online before committing</p>
<p>Phone Spot at 93 St Mary Street, Weymouth DT4 8NY, together with some of the other phone menders, will repair mobile phones and ITec equipment. They also buy and sell working ITec equipment up to about 5 years old</p>
<p>Reuse</p> <p>Dorset Reclaim will collect saleable, modern home entertainment items, ITec (computers). They can deliver and install items you buy from them.</p>
<p>RSPB Takes surplus binoculars for use by schools etc – see Second Hand Binoculars Scheme Donate Old Binoculars - The RSPB</p>
<p>Vintage Cash Cow (See All the item categories we buy at Vintage Cash Cow) Accept a wide range of items, both working and broken, including binoculars and vintage tools</p>
<p>Recycle</p> <p>Anything with a plug can be taken to B&Q for recycling – but wipe the discs of all your data first! Some online dealers will pay for broken valuables – see All the item categories we buy at Vintage Cash Cow</p>

Elastic bands

Contrary to some online blogs, Royal Mail apparently does not accept the return of elastic bands – it just keeps buying new ones! I have not been able to find anywhere which will take them – so please reuse them at home.

Electricals (Small)

(items with a plug eg electric toothbrushes, kettles, electric whisks)

Repair

Try: Weymouth and Portland Repair Café (see Repaircafeweymouth.org.uk)

Recycle

Many retailers, including Argos and Dunelm, will take back old items on a 'like for like' basis if you are buying a new one

B&Q Jubilee Retail Park – (in exit lobby) – any small electricals with plugs

Electrical appliances (Large)

(eg microwaves, fridges, washing machines)

Reduce

You could hire rather than buy items that you rarely use, such as machines and garden equipment – try Weyshare, 30 Lennox Street DT4 7HD. which Operates a 'library of things'. Donate tools and equipment, which are then refurbished and hired out for a low fee. They take items for cars and bikes, Itec, hobby items and home and garden such as tools. Usually open afternoons Tuesday-Saturday. Complete an online form to donate – they can collect if required. You can also borrow, for a small fee. Examples of what you can borrow include: carpet cleaners; pressure washers; tea urns; lawn mowers; chainsaws; hedge trimmers.

info@weyforward.net

<https://www.weyshare.net>

Repair

Dorset Reclaim offer online, fully refurbished spare parts for sale for washing machines, cookers, fridges and freezers

Weymouth and Portland Repair Café (see Repaircafeweymouth.org.uk)

Recycle

Many retailers, including Argos offer installation and take away on a 'like for like' basis if you are buying a new appliance from them

Reliance Scrap Metal Cambridge Road Granby 01305 785538 Call them to see whether they will take your scrap boiler, washing machine or other large metal appliances

Furniture and soft furnishings

Reuse

A few charities will collect saleable furniture but they can be choosy and you may need to wait for a few weeks. Upholstered items must have fire safety labels.

Try: Dorset Reclaim (Poundbury West Industrial Estate) Tel 01305 267711

www.dorsetreclaim.org.uk

Julia's House 01202 601998

Recycle

Dunelm on Weymouth Gateway - clean unsaleable soft homeware including pillows and duvets

Hangers (Coat)

Recycle

Asda Weymouth take coat hangers (either upstairs by clothing, or by checkouts, or in lobby)

Incontinence products

Reduce/reuse

See Dorset council's website for details of re-usable incontinence products – and their advantages not only to the environment but also to you.

Ink cartridges

Recycle

Asda Weymouth (either upstairs by computer accessories, or by checkouts) – inkjet

St Aldhelm's Centre, Spa Road (ask at reception)

Tesco Easton (by entrance turnstiles)

Mobile phones

Repair

Phone repairs:

Most of the phone-accessory shops in St Mary Street will make simple repairs

Timpsons in Asda (Weymouth) Car park

Recycle

Weldmar Hospicecare Shop St Thomas Street will take broken phones, as will Cancer Research and British Red Cross on St Mary Street

Some high street phone/internet providers will take your old phone for recycling

Paper

Recycle

You can put 'small amounts' of shredded paper in your household recycling bin but please put in an envelope or cardboard box

Plastic (Soft)

(eg bubble wrap, film, bags, fruit nets, crisp and biscuit packaging)

Recycle

Boots Weymouth St Thomas Street (hard and flexible) – (at bottom of stairs)

Co-op (Main branches on Chickerell Road, Buxton Road and Easton Sq) – take small quantities (in blue-topped bins by checkouts)

Tesco Easton (soft eg bags, plastic wrapping, fruit nets, crisp and biscuit packets etc) – (in large tower container in lobby)

Plastic (Flexible and hard)

(eg toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, cosmetic pots)

Reduce/reuse

Refill your old plastic and other bottles of soap, cleaning fluids and other goods at South West Coast Refills on St Thomas Street. Simply take along a suitable container, give it to the staff member to weigh empty, then either serve yourself and return to the till to weigh again and pay for what you have taken, or ask him/her to serve you.

Recycle

Boots St Thomas Street. There are 2 collection boxes in-store – one for blister packs and the other for other health and wellness items – usually sited between the stairs and the pay desk. In common with most other pharmacies they will also take-back part-used and empty medicine bottles and packaging at their dispensing counter. Boots Pharmacy (Weymouth St Albans Street; Dorchester Cornhill). More information at: What can I bring back to the Recycle at Boots scheme?

Spectacles contact lenses and contact lens blister packs

Recycle

Specsavers St Mary Street

Tools

Reuse/refurbish

Try: Tools with a mission (local presence) <https://www.twam.uk> who take a variety of usable garden, trade or DIY (eg plumbing) **tools** and home equipment (eg

sewing machines) which can be given cosmetic refurbishment before being sent for reuse in Africa (or sold for funds in the UK).

Weyshare, 30 Lennox Street DT4 7HD operates a 'library of things'. Donate tools and equipment which can be refurbished and hired out for a low fee. They take items for cars and bikes, Itec, hobby items and home and garden such as tools. Usually open afternoons Tuesday-Saturday. Complete an online form to donate – they can collect if required.

Watches and jewellery

Repair

Watch repairs: Most jewellers can change batteries and straps and may send away for repairs;

Timpsons in Asda (Weymouth) Car Park does repairs

Weymouth and Portland Repair Café (see Repaircafeweymouth.org.uk)

Recycle

Some jewellers pay for scrap items containing gold – try Gladstones on St Mary Street – as do 'goods for cash' stores both locally and online