



Kanton Basel-Stadt

Waste avoidance and disposal in Basel



Waste avoidance

Avoiding waste is good for the environment and for your wallet.

FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

Raw materials and energy are needed to produce and transport consumer goods. If everyone in the world lived like the average person in Switzerland, we would need the resources of three planets. On an international comparison, Switzerland is one of the top producers of municipal waste per capita.

To ensure our future is worth living, we need to start consuming sustainably. That means buying high-quality products which will last longer and create less waste. Or perhaps buying second-hand items. Maybe also consider borrowing things like a drill or car rather than buying them.

→ Calculate your ecological footprint on:
<https://www.footprintcalculator.org/home/en>



At "Umwelt Basel" you'll find lots of information to help you consume more sustainably, from second-hand shops and online rental platforms to refill shops.



→ www.umweltbasel.ch/angebote



REUSE NOT REFUSE

Clothes, shoes, electrical appliances – you can have all sorts of things repaired and prolong their lifespan considerably.

Reparaturführer.ch

→ For repair tips and the addresses of shops that take on repairs, check out the repairs guide: www.reparaturfuehrer.ch



REDUCE FOOD WASTE

In Switzerland, the food we eat accounts for a weighty 25% of our environmental impact. And food being thrown away amounts to a quarter of this. The production, cooling, processing and transport of food requires considerable resources and energy. If food is subsequently thrown away, all of this is wasted.

→ Take a look here for tips on avoiding food waste:
www.bs.ch/foodwaste



DRINK TAP WATER

Tap water and fountain water in Basel is suitable for drinking. Drinking this water avoids the need for packaging and transporting bottled water. When you're out and about, take a reusable water bottle.

CHOOSE REUSABLE CUTLERY AND CROCKERY FOR TAKE-AWAYS



Take-away food and drink create a huge amount of waste (plastic packaging, coffee cups, etc.). Opt for reusable cutlery and crockery instead; either take your own or use an outlet that runs a deposit system.

DON'T DROP LITTER

Dropping litter in public spaces not only makes them less pleasant for all of us, but also leads to high cleaning costs. It harms the environment, too. For example a single cigarette butt can contaminate up to 1,000 litres of water.

Either take your rubbish home with you, or use one of the public litter bins provided by the City of Basel. For cigarette butts, use either one of the public ashtray bins, or your own portable ashtray.

Many of the waste bins on popular dog-walking routes have Ro-bidog waste bag dispensers. Please use these to clean up after your dog, then dispose of them in a public waste bin provided by the City of Basel.



**!In Basel you can be fined for littering.
The fine is CHF 100.**

Waste disposal

WASTE COLLECTION PLAN

At the end of each year, each household is given a waste collection plan for the next year. Those who move into their homes after this will receive a copy separately. The plan has all the waste collection dates, information on how to package your waste, and the disposal costs.



Important: if household waste is put out for collection without payment (e.g. via Bebbi sacks), or disposed of in public litter bins, this can incur a fine of CHF 200 or CHF 100 respectively. The fine for putting waste out at the wrong time is CHF 50.

DRÄGGWÄGG APP

The Dräggwägg app has kerbside collection reminder functions and enables you to book green waste, bulky waste and non-combustible waste collections, along with the wood chipping service. It also contains general information on waste disposal.



FURTHER INFORMATION

All important information on waste disposal can be found at:

→ www.bs.ch/abfall



RECYCLABLE WASTE

Unlike some other countries, Switzerland doesn't have an official collection bag for recyclable waste. Here we sort our waste at source, which avoids cross-contamination. Separate collections are available for the recyclable items listed below, which helps ensure the raw materials are reused.

Private companies offer chargeable collection services for recyclable waste in a collection sack.

You can also take recyclable waste to recycling parks.

→ www.bs.ch/sammelstellen



PAPER/CARDBOARD



There are free monthly kerbside collections for paper and cardboard. You can find the collection dates on the collection plan or the Dräggwägg app.



Although the paper and cardboard are collected together, they subsequently go through a sorting machine. Please therefore tie up your paper and cardboard in separate bundles. Sorting them in this way ensures that the high-quality paper stays in the paper cycle. Mixed bundles detected by the sorting machine are considered to be of lower quality, so go into the cardboard recycling process.

Use string and not adhesive tape for bundling. Bundle large cardboard boxes together. Small cardboard elements can be placed in a cardboard box/paper carrier bag tied with string.

GLASS, ALUMINIUM, TIN PLATE AND BATTERIES



You can dispose of glass, aluminium, tin plate and batteries free of charge at the public recycling stations.

→ www.bs.ch/sammelstellen



Glass

Bottles and jars can be recycled in separate containers for the different colours (clear, brown and green). Please put glass of any other colour into the green glass container.

Do not put window glass, mirror glass, drinking glasses or ceramics into these containers. These hinder recycling and are classed as non-combustible waste (→ non-recyclable waste).



Aluminium/Tin Plate

Aluminium and tin plate are collected in the same container and are then magnetically separated.



Batteries

You can also dispose of batteries free of charge at recycling stations, as well as at supermarket recycling walls and in electronics stores. You must never put batteries into your household waste.

TEXTILES AND SHOES



Since large quantities of resources (energy, water, chemicals, fossil fuels) are required to produce textiles and shoes, it is particularly important to avoid throwing these away. Usable products can be repaired, donated or sold. Old textiles can also be bagged and disposed of in clothes containers.

→ www.bs.ch/textilien



ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES



You can take used electrical appliances to any shop selling similar products for free disposal. Electrical appliances contain valuable raw materials such as copper, tantalum, aluminium and gold. Returning them to stores enables the raw materials to be reused. You must never put electrical appliances into your household waste!

METAL



Metal is picked up via free kerbside collections. You can find the collection dates on the collection plan or the Dräggwägg app. Very large (> 2 m) or heavy items (> 10 kg) need to be taken directly to the recycling park.

PLASTIC

Recycling plastic is a complex process due to the many different types of plastic we use. Each type needs to be recycled in a different way, and recycling it requires energy and raw materials. So once again, avoiding plastic completely is the best solution. These are your options for disposing of plastic waste:



PET drinks bottles
Supermarket recycling walls



Plastic bottles
shampoo, vinegar and oil bottles, etc.
Supermarket recycling walls



Polystyrene
Recycling parks



Plastic packaging
incl. beverage cartons
Collection points for collection bags

→ www.bs.ch/kunststoff-verpackungen



ORGANIC WASTE



Garden Waste: Green Waste Collections

You can dispose of garden waste (twigs, grass cuttings, etc.) either in your own compost bin or via the green waste collection service. For the collection service, please pre-book and attach the correct number of pre-paid stickers to your waste. No stickers are needed if you use a WIGA container. You can find the collection dates on the collection plan or the Dräggwägg app. The collection plan also has a list of sales points for pre-paid green waste stickers.



Organic Waste and Food Leftovers

There are various different options for organic waste and food leftovers:

Dispose of them in a Bio-Sagg (pre-paid organic waste collection bag), in a communal Bioklappe bin, or via a collection service provider.

→ www.bs.ch/bioabfall



The city gardening service gives free advice on composting organic waste in a backyard, garden or balcony compost bin or at a community composting centre, along with the locations of the centres.

→ www.bs.ch/kompostberatung



NON-RECYCLABLE WASTE

HOUSEHOLD WASTE



Non-recyclable but combustible waste goes into your household waste: hygiene articles, Hoover bags, frozen food packaging, cigarette butts, etc. This is then incinerated at the Basel household waste incineration plant.

In Basel you can dispose of your household waste in the pre-paid light-blue Bebbi sacks, in containers specifically for Bebbi sacks, or in WIGA containers. The WIGA system charges by weight for waste disposal. The principle underlying this is that the “polluter pays”. You can find the collection dates on the collection plan or the Dräggwägg app. The waste must be put out for collection between 7 p.m. the day before and 7 a.m. on the day of collection. Some areas of Basel have underground waste disposal containers.



Bebbi sacks are available in four sizes (10, 17, 35 and 60 litres) from retailers or the customer services office. No more than 20 kg of waste may be disposed of per sack.



→ www.bs.ch/hauskehricht

BULKY WASTE

You can find sales points for pre-paid bulky waste stickers on the collection plan.



Small Bulky Waste Items

Small bulky waste items (combustible, max. 10 kg, with a pre-paid sticker attached) can be put out for collection with normal household waste.



Large Bulky Waste Items

Large bulky waste items (over 10 kg) must be registered for collection separately. You can find the collection dates on the collection plan or the Dräggwägg app. One pre-paid bulky waste sticker is required per 10 kg of bulky waste.

NON-COMBUSTIBLE WASTE



If you need to dispose of non-combustible waste (broken crockery, mirrors, household glassware, window glass, flower pots, etc.), you can book this in for a separate kerbside collection. You can find the collection dates on the collection plan or the Dräggwägg app. Please attach the correct number of pre-paid stickers.

Non-combustible waste can also be disposed of at recycling parks.

HAZARDOUS WASTE



Medicines, chemicals, paint, spray cans, etc. must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Small quantities of hazardous waste, up to 5 kg, can be taken to free collection points throughout the city (usually pharmacies). The collection plan contains a list of these collection points. Larger quantities can be disposed of at the city's official central collection point for hazardous waste (Basel households can dispose of up to 20 kg free of charge).

→ www.bs.ch/sonderabfall



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The principle is simple: the longer an item is used before it's finally disposed of, the better



THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE

In Switzerland, the person who creates the waste pays for its disposal. In general, the more waste there is to dispose of, the higher the costs.

Depending on the product, the costs arise with the purchase or at the time of disposal. For example, you can take electrical articles and batteries back free of charge to shops that sell such articles. So for these products, you pay an advance charge for recycling which is incorporated into the purchase price. By contrast, you pay for the disposal of household waste after it has been created, e.g. in Basel you do this by buying Bebbi sacks or bulky waste stickers.

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