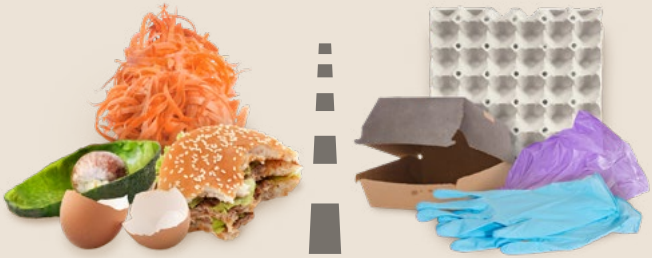
NSW GOVERNMENT

New rules are in place



Businesses must separate food waste

Businesses generating around 4000 litres of waste a week, equivalent to 2 skip bins or more, must separate food waste from general waste to reduce landfill and emissions.

Why are there new rules?

Food waste makes up a quarter of all NSW business waste going to landfill. Increasing food waste recycling is essential to avoid a looming waste crisis and moves us closer to a circular economy.

The new rules are happening in stages based on weekly rubbish bin volumes:

From July 1 2026 rules apply to sites with a weekly general waste capacity of around 4,000L or more.

From 1 July 2028 rules apply to sites with a weekly general waste capacity of around 2,000L or more.

From July 2030 rules apply to sites with a weekly general waste capacity of around 700L or more.

Use our **online calculator** to work out if or when your business needs to comply.

What are the penalties for non-compliance?

Councils and businesses can face maximum penalties of up to $500,000 with further fines for continuing offences. However, the initial focus is on education and support. Councils are the regulatory authority for businesses within their LGAs, while the EPA is the regulatory authority for institutions and council-run businesses.

The EPA may consider granting exemptions in certain circumstances. These are designed to support a transition period.
Email fogo.exemptions@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Get ready

- Talk to your waste service provider for advice on how to achieve best practice source separation, reduce contamination and maximise food waste diversion.
- Sign up to the EPA's Bin Trim tool to assess waste, identify actions to avoid and reduce it.
- Visit the EPA website for more information and resources including sector guides, signage and case studies.
- Watch our Bin Trim video guides:

  Introduction to food waste source separation

  Guide to food waste source separation

  Food donation for businesses

  Food waste avoidance for businesses

Contact

If you require further assistance,
please call **13 77 88** or email **info@epa.nsw.gov.au**