

DEFRA Food Waste Legislation 2025: Key Points

Key Deadlines:

- March 31, 2025 – Businesses generating 5kg+ of food waste per week must separate food waste from general waste.
- March 31, 2027 – Micro-businesses must comply with the new regulations.

Who is Impacted?

- Food manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors generating 5kg+ of food waste per week.
- Retailers and supermarkets handling significant food inventory and surplus.
- Hospitality & food service businesses (restaurants, cafes, hotels).
- Micro-businesses (fewer than 10 employees) have an extended deadline (March 31, 2027).

What Businesses Must Do to Comply

- Separate food waste from general waste before collection.
- Store food waste properly in dedicated bins.
- Arrange for licensed waste carriers to collect and process food waste.
- Maintain records of waste management to prove compliance.

Penalties for Non-Compliance

- Fines & penalties for failing to separate food waste.
- Operational disruptions due to non-compliance enforcement.
- Reputational risks as customers and partners expect sustainable practices.



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