

re3 recycling centre permits FAQ

1. What is a re3 recycling centre permit?

From 1st July 2016 residents living in the re3 area of Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Councils will be asked for identification before being given access to the re3 recycling centres in Bracknell and Reading.

Every household in the re3 area is being sent a free, vinyl permit via Royal Mail that should be displayed on their vehicle windscreen when visiting a re3 recycling centre. This will help us to quickly and efficiently identify them as a re3 resident who can use the recycling centre facilities.

2. Why are these permits being introduced?

From 1st July 2016, only residents living in the re3 local authority areas of Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham will be able to use the re3 recycling centres in Bracknell and Reading.

This decision has been prompted by West Berkshire Council giving notice that it intends to stop paying the re3 councils for waste delivered to re3 recycling centres by West Berkshire residents. It is unfair to ask re3 area council tax payers to fund waste management services for residents in other local authorities.

Staff at the centres will be enforcing this restriction and all visitors will be asked to prove that they are a re3 area resident before permission is given to enter the site.

3. What identification do I need to bring on a recycling centre visit?

Every household in the re3 area is being sent a recycling centre permit in the post. Visitors should display the permit in their windscreen in order to access the recycling centres in Bracknell and Reading.

Alternative forms of ID – for example, a driving licence photocard and proof of address in the form of a recent council tax bill, bank or credit card statement or utility bill – will be accepted, but checking these documents will slow down access so residents are being asked to please use their windscreen permit.

4. What do the permits look like?

The permits are round with an orange and red design. As the permits are made from vinyl, they will not permanently stick to the windscreen and can be removed and kept on the backing paper when not in use.



5. Will I be charged for a permit?

One permit per household is being sent free of charge to every household in the re3 area.

6. Will I receive anything else with my permit?

Each permit will be accompanied by a letter giving more information on the recycling centre access changes and will provide the resident with a unique reference number for their permit. This number should be hand-written in the white box on the resident's permit before displaying it in their windscreen during a recycling centre visit. Residents may also be asked to quote this number if they decide to apply for a commercial vehicle permit, which are coming into effect at the re3 recycling centres from early September.

7. Can I have more than one permit?

We are providing one permit per household. However, the permit is not linked to an individual car registration, and can be used with different vehicles in the same household.

8. Can I share my permit with someone else?

Permits should not be shared with residents from other council areas as a way to gain access to a re3 recycling centre. If this happens, the resident lending the permit is allowing the other person to dispose of their waste free of charge, but at a cost to re3 area council tax payers.

Every household in Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham is being sent a permit by Royal Mail, so there shouldn't be a need for residents to share their permits with families and friends within the re3 area.

9. When will I receive my permit?

Permits are being sent via Royal Mail throughout early to mid-June, and by the end of the second last week in June, every household in the re3 area should have received their permit ready for use from 1st July 2016.

10. How long is a permit valid for?

The vinyl windscreen permits do not currently have an expiry date and are valid until further notice.

11. What if I receive a letter but not a permit?

This should not happen as the machinery used to stuff both the letters and permits into the envelope does not function without both the letter and permit being included. Both at the point of when the letter is stuffed into the envelope and when the permit is added, sensors trigger automatic stops if not all the components of the mailing are in the envelope. An operator would then check the machine before running it again and misses or doubles are removed and placed back into the relevant point of the system to ensure that the mailings are complete.

Please double check the envelope for your permit.

12. What if I don't receive my permit, or have just moved into the area, but want to visit a re3 recycling centre after 1st July 2016?

If you are new to the re3 area, or are a re3 area resident and have not received a permit in the post by the beginning of July, then you will be able to apply for one by completing a permit request form on your local council website:

- www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk
- www.reading.gov.uk
- www.wokingham.gov.uk

Please allow 10 working days for your request to be processed plus postage time.

Request forms should not be used to gain a second permit as it is only one permit per re3 area household. re3 area residents will still be able to visit the recycling centres using alternative forms of ID.

13. What if I lose my permit?

Only one permit will be posted to each household, so please keep yours safe. If you lose it, you will be able to apply for a new one by completing a permit request form on your local council website. Please note that we may take the decision to charge for replacement permits.

14. Why are permits being sent to every household in the re3 area and not distributed through an application process?

re3 had to react very quickly due to the short notice period for the end of the West Berkshire agreement and in order to protect re3 area – Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham - residents from having to pay for waste brought to the recycling centres by visitors from other council areas.

To help ensure a fair, convenient and cost-effective method of distributing the permits, we are posting a free permit to every household in the re3 area. Residents who do not use the recycling centres may return their permits.

15. Did you consider alternatives to the issuing permits?

Yes, but given the short notice period of the ending of the West Berkshire agreement, in addition to budget and capacity constraints, the vinyl permit system was found to be the most cost-effective, timely option to protect re3 council tax payers from having to pay for waste disposal for residents from outside the re3 area.

16. What happens in neighbouring authorities?

Slough Borough Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) allow residents of both authorities to use the facility at Chalvey, although vans and trailers from RBWM are not entitled to access.

Slough also advertises access to two sites, Burnham and Langley, within Buckinghamshire. RBWM has a similar arrangement with Surrey County Council for use of their Bagshot site. Both Slough and RBWM advertise that the sites are for specified residents only and that at Stafferton Way (RBWM) proof of residency may be required.

West Berkshire's recycling facilities in Newbury and Padworth are advertised as being for West Berkshire residents.

17. Where can I find out more about the recycling centre changes?

Please visit our website at www.re3.org.uk, follow us on Twitter @re3recycling or find us on Facebook at Re3 Recycling.