

How to safely dispose of a face mask

It is now mandatory for people across Shropshire to wear a face covering in all supermarkets and shops, as well as public transport.

Wearing face coverings helps protect those around you and will help us all slow the spread of the virus. Face coverings help to stop the spread of the virus if you have COVID-19, especially if you don't have any symptoms. Remember, if you do develop symptoms you should remain at home, self-isolate and book a test straightaway. You can also book a test by calling NHS Test and Trace on 119.

It is important to remember that even if your mouth and nose are covered the infection can be spread on your hands.

Wearing and disposing of single-use face covering

- Before putting on a mask, wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap
- Cover mouth and nose with the mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask
- Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with hand sanitizer or soap and water
- Avoid touching your face, nose, mouth and eyes at all times whilst wearing the mask
- To remove the mask: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in your black refuse bin and wash hands for 20 seconds.
- If you have been self-isolating or have Covid symptoms, double bag any single-use face coverings and store them for 14 days before disposing of them in your black waste bin
- Never re-use single use face masks

Remember that wearing a face covering is not a substitute for washing your hands frequently and keeping at least 2 metres from others.

Reusable face coverings

Reusable face coverings can be washed as part of your laundry and using your normal detergent.

The government has put together a [simple guide](#) on how to make your own face coverings

Make sure you wash your hands after handling a used face mask and avoid touching your face and eyes. Once removed make sure you clean any surfaces the face covering has touched.

If you feel unwell with symptoms of coronavirus you must stay at home and book a test. Do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.