

# Waste & Recycling

Planning Guidance on Waste & Recycling Storage and Collection



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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Key Aims

This guidance note is to provide pre-prepared planning guidance to prospective applicants to assist them to make an acceptable application.

Bespoke guidance can be obtained on specific developments at pre-application stage by contacting our Planning Information Officers. Contact details are provided on page 10.

## 1.2 Background

The purpose of this document is to provide applicants with guidance on the accommodation of waste and recycling services (external waste storage and collection) in new developments. This is to ensure that adequate provision is made for the Council to undertake its statutory duty to collect and arrange appropriate disposal/recycling of waste arising from domestic properties.

The waste and recycling collection service is provided using light green wheeled bins (240 litre) for residual waste which goes for treatment/landfill. Blue wheeled bins (240 litre) with inner boxes for dry recycling (paper, glass, cans, plastic bottles and cardboard) and dark green wheeled bins (240 litre) for green waste, both of which are sent for further sorting and re-processing into recycled products.

# 2.0 General Guidelines

Any applicant who wishes to obtain planning permission must seek to reach agreement by consulting with the Council on the following:

- Methods of storage and collection of waste and recyclables including vehicle access
- Designated location for storage of waste and recyclables sensitively located away from habitable windows
- External storage capacities provided
- Fire safety measures for communal waste and recycling storage areas within habitable developments (fire resistant walls and ceilings)
- Appropriate recycling facilities for retail, leisure and community outlets, dependent upon catchment areas and local circumstances

*On average, each household in the UK produces over a tonne of household waste every year - that's the weight of a small car*

## 3.0 Individual Houses and Bungalows

### 3.1 External Storage of Waste and Recycling Containers

Sufficient storage must be provided based on container sizes illustrated in Table 2. Table 1 below illustrates minimum requirements for the number of containers required for residual waste and recycling based on household size, and garden size for green waste container requirements. This is only guidance therefore developers must remain flexible with regards to external storage capacity in any new residential development.

**Table 1:** Minimum requirements for number of containers for residual waste and recycling

Size of Household	Number of containers	Size of containers (litres)
<b>Household Waste (residual)</b>		
All sizes	1-2	240 wheeled bin
<b>Household Dry Recyclables</b>		
All sizes	1	240 litre wheeled bin with 40 litre inner box
<b>Household Green Waste</b>		
Garden size less than 30m <sup>2</sup>	Does not qualify for a green waste container	
Garden size between 30 and 149m <sup>2</sup>	1	240 wheeled bin
Garden size 150m <sup>2</sup> and over	up to 2	240 wheeled bin

Wheeled bins must be stored within the boundary of the property in a structure or be located on an area which is hard and impervious, in an open-air position, free-draining away from habitable windows, and in a position which can be conveniently accessed (e.g. from the kitchen and where lids can be opened). There must be clearance of 150mm around each bin and the storage area must be a minimum height of 2m (British Standards, 2005). Table 2 illustrates container sizes.

**Table 2:** Domestic Waste and Recycling Container Sizes

Dimensions (approximate)	240 Litre (mm)
Height	1080
Width	580
Depth	740
Lid Opening Radius	670
Overall Height (with lid open)	1750
Floor Space Required	880 by 1040

*Recycling one tonne of paper saves 17 trees - the average family in the UK uses the equivalent of six trees a year.*

## 3.0 Individual Houses and Bungalows (Continued)

### 3.2 Collection of Waste and Recycling Containers

Where the only direct access to the collection point (for wheeled bin pick-up) is by means of passing through the building, a suitable enclosure of sufficient size to store the appropriate number of wheeled bins, with lids open, should be provided. This should be constructed at an appropriate location in relation to the collection point .

The distance from the collection point to the bin storage area should be no greater than **30m** and residents should not have to carry material further than **30m** to waste and recycling containers (British Standards, 2005). Wheeled bins should not be wheeled a greater distance than **15m** (British Standards, 2005) to the kerbside (collection point) – this excludes vertical distances. Waste Collection Operatives are not expected to move a wheeled bin a greater distance than **15m** and are not expected to move over surfaces which hinder smooth passage of the bin.

### 3.3 Home Composting

To encourage composting, the Council asks that for developments with a garden, adequate space for a home compost bin is provided. Minimum dimensions are provided in Table 3.

Good (✓) and poor (x) examples of container storage for individual houses/bungalows are illustrated below:



**Table 3:** Home Compost Bin Dimensions

Container	Dimensions (Approximate)	
220 Litre	Width	740
	Depth (mm)	740
	Height (mm)	900
330 Litre	Width (mm)	800
	Depth (mm)	800
	Height (mm)	1000



Above - Example of compost bin



*Every person uses on average 240 steel cans every year - one recycled can would save enough energy to power a television for three hours*

# 4.0 Houses of Multiple Occupancy and Flats / Apartments

## 4.1 Internal Storage

Any developments that incorporate waste chutes should seek guidance by consulting with the Council (contact details held on page 10).

## 4.2 External Storage of Waste and Recycling Containers

The use of new technologies and storage / collection systems appropriate to new developments must be considered e.g underground storage.

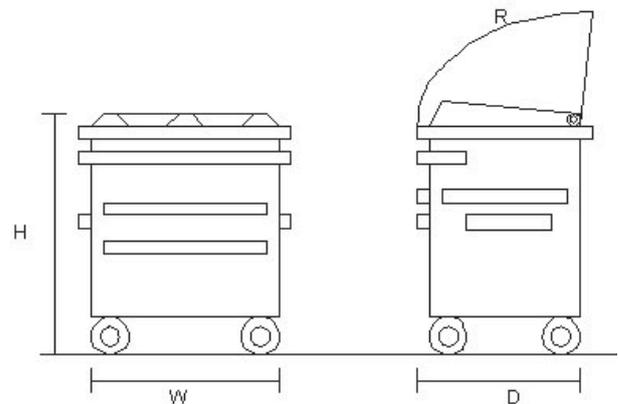
The siting and design of communal bin areas must have regard to the impact of noise and smell on nearby occupiers/neighbours. Communal bin storage areas must have a minimum height of 2.5m, and allow 150mm clearance around bins and 1.3m clearance if bins are located in a way that they face each other in a communal bin storage area. If 4 x 1100 litre bins are stored in communal areas, doorways and alleys must be at least 2m wide to allow for manoeuvrability (British Standards, 2005). Sufficient storage must be provided based on container sizes illustrated in Table 2 and Figure 2. All communal bin areas must be identified on plans submitted to the Council for planning permission. Consideration is to be given to appropriate frequency of collections from multiple occupancy premises, flats and apartments which will influence container number and size requirements.

Figure 1 below gives an approximate guide with regards to the number of bulk waste containers (1100 litre Euro bins) required for multiple occupancy developments and flats based on number of apartments (dwellings). This should be used to judge storage capacity, and is based on the use of 1100 litre euro bins by way of example only. However, it must be noted that it's not always necessary to make use of 1100 litre euro bins and in some cases other container types are used.

**Figure 1:** Approximate number of bulk waste containers (1100 litre Euro bins) required for multiple occupancy developments and flats based on number of apartments (dwellings) - Guidance only.



**Figure 2:** Bulk Waste Container Sizes (Euro Bins)



Dimensions (Approximate)	1100 Litre (mm)
H - Height	1465
W - Width	1360
D - Depth	1220
H + R = Overall Height (with lid open)	2425
R - Lid Opening Radius	960

*Each UK family uses an average of 500 glass bottles and jars annually - recycling one glass jar would save enough energy to power a washing machine for ten minutes*

## 4.0 Houses of Multiple Occupancy and Flats / Apartments (Continued)

### 4.3 Collection of Waste and Recycling Containers

Guidance in section 3.2 also applies to Houses of Multiple Occupancy and Flats. In addition, paths between the container chamber (storage area) and collecting vehicles should be free from kerbs, steps or inclines with a gradient of no more than 1:12, be non-slip and a minimum of 2m wide (British Standards, 2005).

Good (✓) and poor (x) examples of communal bin storage areas are illustrated below:



*275,000 tonnes of plastic are used each year in the UK, which is about 15 million bottles per day - recycling one plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 3 hours*

## 5.0 Retail, Leisure and Community Facilities

### 5.1 Retail, Leisure and Community Facilities

The use of new technologies and storage/collection systems appropriate to new developments must be considered e.g. underground storage, separate storage rooms and dedicated areas.

Major retail, leisure and community facilities such as supermarkets, retail parks etc must accommodate recycling facilities to allow the public to recycle away from their home. The provision of recycling facilities for residents to use away from home is arranged by the Council and will comply with the following:

- Be safe and have easy access for waste producers and collectors (including large collection vehicles)
- Have adequate signage
- Accommodate appropriate vehicle access including adequate turning circles

Such larger developments must provide recycling sites of a size to accommodate the footprint of recycling banks for a range of materials including but not limited to, paper, glass (clear, brown and green), plastic bottles, cans, cartons, textiles, books and music, and any other banks as requested by the Council. The size of these recycling sites must be sufficient to serve the surrounding catchment area. On large scale developments the Developer must also provide sound-proof fencing if the recycling site is located within 100m of residential areas.

Developers and their retail/leisure tenants must not make changes to the provision of recycling facilities at stores without first consulting and seeking agreement with the Council (Local Environmental Services). Recycling sites will be appropriately publicised by the Council. The Council can arrange servicing of recycling site receptacles to prevent overfill. Arrangements for maintenance of recycling sites should also be arranged in conjunction with the Council (Local Environmental Services) and be understood by all parties involved.

*Glass that is thrown away ends up in landfill sites and will never decompose*

## 6.0 Commercial and Industrial Developments (non-household)

### 6.1 General

Storage containers range in size from 240 litre wheeled bins to large skips and compactors. However, to avoid problems with litter, only enclosed containers should be used. Each individual unit should have its own secure storage area of sufficient size to accommodate all waste and recycling that requires storage between collections. This should be hard impervious and have a free draining surface at vehicle access level. Development should seek to maximise the potential for recycling.

### 6.2 Waste and Recycling Storage Chambers

**Storage:** There must be clearance of 150mm around each bin and the storage area must be a minimum height of 2.5m (British Standards, 2005). Communal bin storage areas must allow 150mm clearance around bins and 1.3m clearance if bins are located in a way that they face each other in a communal bin storage area. If 4 x 1100 litre bins are stored in communal areas, doorways and alleys must be at least 2m wide to allow for manoeuvrability (British Standards, 2005).

**Location:** Waste and recycling storage chambers should be located at vehicle access level, (essential in the case of bulk containers), seeking to avoid slopes, preferably away from the main entrance to the building, and should be constructed such that containers can be moved directly to the outside, without passing directly through any part of the building. The distance from the point to the bin storage area should be no greater than 30m and materials should not have to be carried further than 30m to waste and recycling containers (British Standards, 2005). Wheeled bins should not be wheeled a greater distance than 15m (British Standards, 2005) to the collection point – this excludes vertical distances. The siting and design of communal bin areas must have regard to the impact of noise and smell on nearby occupiers/neighbours.

**Security:** Where the waste and recycling chamber forms part of a building it should preferably have two access points, i.e. an internal access point with a security lock for the waste producer and a second external access point for the waste and recycling collector. The collectors door should be fitted with a universal lock and key system (preferably standard Fire Brigade mortice lock and key).

### 6.3 Storage of Bulky Articles for Recycling/ Disposal

Where communal waste storage chambers are installed, separate enclosed accommodation should be provided at ground floor level for the storage of large bulky waste (furniture, fridges etc) and recyclable materials.

*Recycling creates jobs and saves money*

# 7.0 Collection Vehicle Access Requirements

## 7.1 Access Requirements

Where vehicle access roads are to be adopted by the Council they should have foundations and a hardwearing surface capable of withstanding an axle vehicle loading of maximum gross weight of 26 tonnes. Roads should have a minimum width of 5 metres (British Standards, 2005) and be arranged so that collection vehicles can continue mainly in a forward direction keeping reversing to a minimum in the interest of general safety.

Turning circles should be a minimum of 20.3m and vehicles should not have to reverse for more than 12 metres. Overhead service cables and pipes should be at least 7 metres above ground level. All collection points/communal stores should be identified on plans submitted for planning permission.

*Recycle today, **help the environment of tomorrow***

### Contacts

For further assistance please contact our Planning Information Officers on 0191 433 3416

