

Kent County Council

Waste Management

Guide to household waste disposal

Guidance document for residents



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kent.gov.uk





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To request this, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or telephone 03000 421553 (text relay service 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answer machine, which is monitored during office hours.

Or write to: *Kent County Council, Diversity & Equality Team Room G37, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ*

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Kent County Council Waste Management Mission



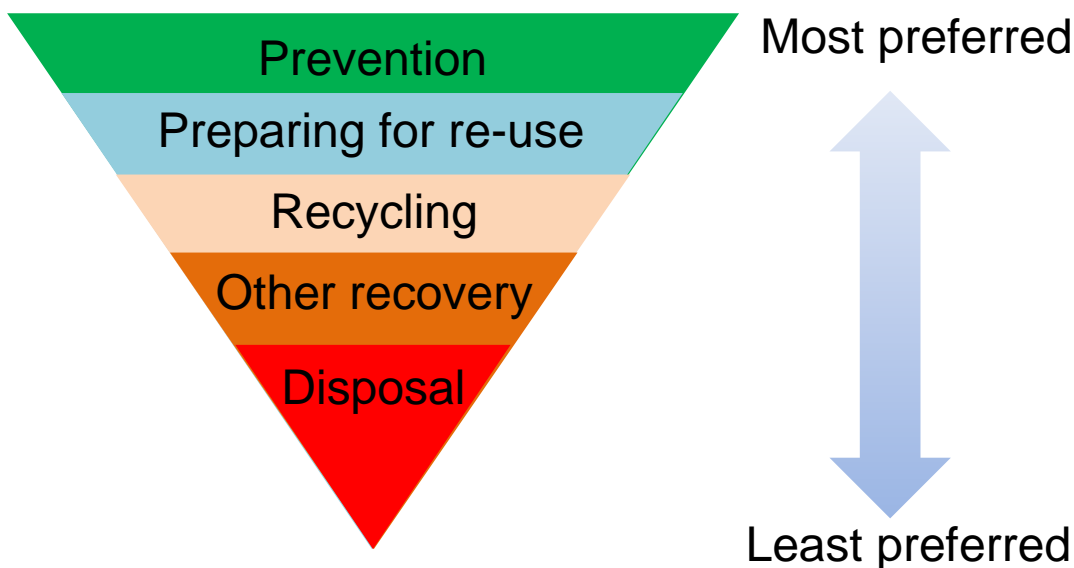
Our Ambition is to deliver a high quality household waste disposal service, whilst remaining cost-effective for the people of Kent, with an emphasis on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and achieving zero landfill

Collection and disposal of waste

Background Information

Kent County Council (KCC) works in partnership with the Kent District and Borough Councils to find the best solution for the household waste that requires disposal.

The aim of this document is to provide clear guidance to residents so they can dispose of their waste in a way that is in line with the Waste Hierarchy enabling waste to be reduced, reused or recycled where possible; and waste being sent for incineration or landfill is as minimal as possible.



Roles of authorities in Kent

District and Borough Councils are Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and they are responsible for collecting household waste from residents' houses, referred to as kerbside collections. The general and recyclable waste is collected by purpose built refuse vehicles and taken to contracted Disposal Outlet's managed by KCC; which is the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA).

KCC as the WDA is responsible for the disposal of household waste from within its boundaries. In Kent, this is waste from the kerbside collections provided by the WCAs and from the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), managed by KCC.

Current performance

We aim to minimise waste that is sent to incineration or landfill by re-use and recycling, where possible. Kent County Council currently has landfill figures that are consistently under 5%. Further information on how we reach this target is provided in the later sections of this booklet.

The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) is a partnership between the district councils and Kent County Council wherein we look at how we can improve waste management in Kent. You can find more information about this partnership, along with current performance figures, at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/partnerships/kent-resource-partnership>.

How Can You Help?

By separating your waste it enables your WCA and WDA to maximise the value of your waste. This will allow budgets to be shared with other services, such as social care.

This guidance helps you understand how you can help...

Other ways to manage your waste

Re-use

You can re-use everyday items that you might normally put in your bin:

- Pots and jars – storage for odds & ends
- Old clothes – donate or make into cushions, pillowcase, etc.
- Carrier bags – re-use when shopping
- Used wood – could be used for a home DIY project
- Envelopes – stick a label over the old address
- Tin foil & cardboard packaging – use for arts & crafts for children
- Electrical items – donate or sell online*
- Newspaper & cardboard boxes– keep for storage of items and moving house

*For reference, please note that any electrical item you may donate or sell online is Portable Appliance Tested (PAT) to ensure its safety.

There are also websites and local shops where you can place an advert to either sell your items or give them away for free.

Charity donations

National and local charities accept many types of furniture, clothing or other household items that are in good condition and can be re-used. Some may even collect furniture from you directly. If you would prefer to donate unwanted items, you can contact a charity for more information on how to donate.

Bring banks

Bring banks can give you the opportunity to recycle some of your unwanted items at a location convenient for you. Your local council may offer bring banks in your area. You can find your nearest bring bank at <https://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling>.

Home composting

If you are able to, home composting is a way of enriching your garden plants and soil, as well as a way of diverting waste from the normal waste disposal methods. Compost heaps and bins also provide a home and refuge for many insects and animals which in turn can benefit your garden.

What you can compost

- Coffee grinds and tea bags
- Eggshells
- Straw and hay
- Cardboard and paper
- Human hair and pet fur
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Grass cuttings, leaves, old flowers/plants
- Sawdust and wood shavings
- Newspaper and shredded paper
- Wood ash

This list is not exhaustive but there are numerous sources of information on the internet and in books on what you can compost, the various methods/ bins, how to create good compost and how you can use it in your garden. Contact your local council to see if they offer support with home composting.

Bulky Collection arranged by your local council

Your local council may offer a bulky (large) item collection service for the following items:

- Fridges and freezers
- Chest of drawers, bookcases, etc.
- Mattresses & bed bases
- Carpets
- Most furniture made of metal
- Sofas and armchairs
- Televisions & computer monitors
- Washing machines, dishwashers, ovens, etc.
- Bikes and exercise equipment
- Lawnmowers

You will need to contact your local authority to confirm what items they are able to collect, and the terms and conditions they offer as this is likely to be a chargeable service.

A lot of companies will take your old items away when they deliver new ones for a minimal fee.

Kerbside Collections

This section provides an overview of the materials that can be disposed of in your kerbside collection. Your local district or borough council, however, should always be the first point to advise you on specific items that can be collected kerbside. This includes non-recyclable waste, food waste (if available) and recycling containers.

Recyclable waste



There are many types of household materials that can be recycled, and they are usually split up into the following groups:

- Plastic;
- Paper, card and cardboard;
- Glass; and
- Household metallic items

Whether collected separately or mixed, the items are taken to facilities where they are separated, processed (if required) and sent to their respective final processing destination where they are used in the manufacturing of other products or materials.

Plastic



The plastic items that you can usually include in your plastic recycling container are listed below. The items should be empty and, where possible, they should be washed to ensure that all residues are removed.

- Milk, soft drink and alcohol bottles
- Hair care product containers
- Baby care product containers
- Laundry product containers
- Plastic meat trays
- Cooking oil bottles
- Household cleaning product containers
- Yoghurt pots
- Food tubs
- Fruit and vegetable punnets

The plastic items that you should **NOT** include in your recycling container, and that should be placed in your general domestic bin are:

- Hard plastics such as children's play equipment
- Clear and coloured plastic bags
- Clear plastic film
- Black plastic food trays and plastic laminates

Some of the new products that can be made from recycled plastic are:

- Fibre filling for sleeping bags and duvets
- Flooring
- Fleece clothing
- Polyethylene bins liners and plastic bags
- Garden sheds
- Car interiors

Paper, cardboard and card



Some of the Kent authorities collect paper, cardboard and card in separate containers, so your local authority should be consulted to understand exactly what is collected and what is accepted in each of your kerbside recycling containers.

The most common items that can be recycled are in the table below. The items should be clean from contamination. Wet items cannot be accepted in dry recycling containers (containers that do not also include garden, food or general waste).

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Pamphlets
- Sheet Paper
- Telephone Directories/ Yellow Pages
- Junk mail
- Catalogues
- Boxes
- Envelopes
- Food Packaging sleeves
- Cardboard
- Kitchen/ toilet roll tubes

Paper is treated with water to remove inks, plastic film and staples. Different materials are then added to create a variety of new paper products such as newspapers, cardboard or printer paper.

Glass



If your local authority collects glass in one of your kerbside recycling containers then all household glass bottles and jars can be placed within the containers. Similarly to the plastic items they should be empty and, where possible, clean.

Examples of the glass items that you are **NOT** able to put in your recycling bin are:

- Window glass
- Glass cookware
- Drinking glasses
- Microwave plates
- Mirrors
- Nail varnish bottles
- Vases
- Ceramics

Glass is first crushed and any contaminants are removed. The crushed glass is then mixed with raw materials to colour or enhance the properties as necessary. After this process, the remnants are melted in a furnace and then moulded or blown into new bottles or jars. If you do not have a kerbside collection you may alternatively use a glass bank.

Household metal packaging



Some metal household items can be placed in the appropriate kerbside recycling container and the table below details the common recyclable items:

- Drink cans
- Food cans
- Kitchen foil
- Ready meal/Take away containers
- Coffee/tea tins
- Foil pet food containers (not pouches)
- Aluminium party platters
- Biscuit/ sweet tins
- Aerosol cans
- Metal jar lids

Scrap Metal

Household scrap metal items must not be placed in the recycling bins and should be recycled at your local [Household Waste Recycling Centre](#). It is an offence to leave items out on the kerbside without prior arrangement for collection.



Household scrap metal items can include:

- Aluminium
- Brass (e.g. plumbing parts)
- Iron or copper pans
- Furniture made from metal
- Bicycle parts
- Insulated copper wire
- Electric motors
- Power tools
- Lawnmowers
- Nails & screws

Contamination

Contamination occurs when items are disposed of in the wrong container. This can have both operational and financial implications for your local authority and reduces the amount of waste that is recycled.

Common items that contaminate recycling can include:

- Plastic bags/black sacks
- Textiles
- Scrap metal
- Garden Waste
- Nappies & sanitary waste
- Wood
- Electrical items
- Food Waste

Please contact your local authority if are unsure of whether you can put an item in your bin in order to keep your recycling free of contamination.

Food waste



If you have been provided with a food waste container that is collected at the kerbside, then you can place the majority of your uncooked and cooked food waste in the bin. Examples of the items that can be placed in the food waste bin are listed below. This also applies where authorities provide mixed garden and food containers, or mixed garden, food and cardboard containers.

- Meat and fish, including the bones
- Fruit and vegetables
- All dairy products (not milk)
- Bread, cakes and pastries
- Leftover items from your plates (not liquids)
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- Pet food
- 100% compostable bags (check with your local authority)

- Rice, pasta and beans
- Food wrapped in kitchen towel or newspaper

Liquids, packaging of any sort, and oil or liquid fats should not be included in your food waste container.

Separately collected food is taken to an Anaerobic Digestion facility where it is broken down in the absence of oxygen. This process produces biogas which can be used in energy generation, and the final material left over is usually used as a soil improver in agriculture.

Food waste cannot be placed in with your mixed dry recycling. Not segregating food waste from your recycling will result in non-collection of your recycling container and a contaminated recycling load. There is a cost implication to your local authority if contaminated waste is brought to a disposal site

Garden Waste



Local councils may offer a garden collection service, although there may be a small charge for this. The following items that would generally arise from light gardening activity can be placed in your garden waste containers;

- Grass and hedge cuttings
- Leaves
- Prunings from shrubs
- Flowers
- Twigs and small branches.
- Weeds (except for Japanese Knotweed and ragwort)

Items that **should not** be placed in the containers include:

- Ragwort*
- Soil and turf
- Rubble and stones
- Food waste
- Pet litter
- Japanese Knotweed*
- Wood
- All non-organic waste (flower pots, seed trays, etc.)
- Garden chemicals
- Shredded paper/wood shavings

* **Ragwort** and Japanese **Knotweed** are classed as invasive species of weed. These **cannot** be placed in your garden waste bin or taken to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.



Ragwort



Japanese Knotweed

Ragwort is toxic and potentially deadly to animals if eaten. Japanese Knotweed spreads rapidly, suppressing all other plant growth. There could be legal and financial implications if you allow contaminated soil or plant material from any waste you transfer to spread into the wild.

Please contact your local council to find out more information on safe removal and disposal of these weeds.

More information relating to these species can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants>

How is my garden waste recycled?

Collected garden waste is taken to a facility where it is shaped into long lines and turned on a regular basis. This mixes the composting materials and enhances passive aeration. Once complete it can be sold on and used as a soil improver in agricultural or landscaping applications.

Garden waste cannot be placed in with your mixed dry recycling. Not segregating garden waste from your recycling will result in non-collection of your recycling container and a contaminated recycling load. There is a cost implication to your local authority if contaminated waste is brought to a disposal site.

Refuse waste (black bag waste)



Many of the household waste items that cannot be recycled can be put into your normal household waste bin/ bags. Examples of these are in the below table.

- Nappies and sanitary products (please put in tied up bag)
- Polystyrene, cling film and bubble wrap
- Cat litter and pet bedding (small amounts only please, in a tied-up bag)
- Broken crockery and glass (please wrap in paper, in a tied-up bag).
- Shredded or tissue paper
- *Pet food pouches

There are also items that cannot go into your household waste bins and a different disposal point should be sought. You should only put waste in your refuse bin if you cannot recycle it! Here are some examples:

- Garden waste
- Electrical items
- Builders waste
- Textiles
- Waste Oil
- Hazardous material
- Clinical waste and needles
- Wood

Always check with your local authority about what can and can't go into each of your household bins.

Residual waste collected at the kerbside is currently treated at the Allington Waste to Energy plant where it is incinerated and electricity is created through a steam turbine and alternator.

Waste to Energy drastically reduces the need for landfill and should be a last option. Re-use and recycling not only recoups the maximum value from the product but also reduces environmental impact when obtaining raw materials.

Avoidance from landfill is achieved by use of Waste to Energy plant and recycling where possible.

Other streams

Textiles, batteries & WEEE



Your local authority may be able to collect textiles, batteries and/or WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) as part of your kerbside collection. Contact your local council to see what services they offer. Alternatively, have a look at the sections above (Re-Use, Bring Banks, and Charity Donations) to find out more about other ways of disposing of your items.

Waste disposal contractors

If you have excess waste that you need to dispose of, you could hire a waste disposal contractor (alternatively know as house clearance contractors) to collect it and dispose of it on your behalf. You have a responsibility to check that the contractor has a valid Waste Carrier's Licence otherwise you could be held responsible and fined if this waste is fly-tipped or not disposed of correctly. You should also receive a Waste Transfer Note giving details of where your waste will be disposed.

You can find more information and guidance here;

http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/59998/Waste-management-guidance-for-businesses.pdf

Household Waste Recycling Centres



Kent County Council has a number of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across the County and it is possible to recycle many items at the sites. Before you travel to a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC), do consider the previously described options for disposing of waste.

Please note that Medway Council is a unitary local authority and is responsible for providing Medway residents with an outlet for their household waste.

Locations and opening hours

Please visit the following website to find out the site locations and opening and closing times

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/find-your-nearest-tip>

What you can bring

Most household waste is accepted at each of the sites. However, not all sites have a chemical disposal outlet and only some take plasterboard and asbestos. It is always best to check the website if you have anything out of the ordinary to dispose of.

Further guidance can be found here:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/i-want-to-get-rid-of>

Charged For Materials & Material Limits

As of 3 June 2019, disposal of certain materials at Kent's HWRCs are charged for. These include soil, hardcore, plasterboard, tyres (charged for since 2012), sand, ceramic kitchen & bathroom items. More information can be found here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-charging-guide>

KCC has policies in place that limit the amount of certain wastes such as; tyres and asbestos.

Details of these limits can be found here:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/i-want-to-get-rid-of>

Vehicles restrictions and trailers

There are also policies in place in relation to vehicle and trailer usage on site. The trailer size is limited (2.05M) and they cannot be used with restricted vehicles.

Please visit our website for further guidance:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/vehicle-restrictions-and-vouchers>

Height barriers

All sites are fitted with a height barrier of 2m.

Handy tips for your visit to the HWRC

If possible, make yourself familiar with the site layout before you visit.

Please always make sure you are able to lift and carry what you bring to the site. Staff will be on hand to help, however, hardcore must be in sacks or containers and cannot be shovelled directly out of your vehicle

There are many signs at each HWRC to help you navigate the site and locate the correct containers for your waste.

What to expect

Our HWRCs are busy areas and visitors are asked to be aware that other people are driving and getting out of their cars. They could often have heavy or bulky waste which they are disposing of and this means that they may not be able to see you.

If you need help with any items or are unsure which container your waste should go into, please ask the staff on site. There are also details here: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/i-want-to-get-rid-of>

The following Health and Safety rules should be noted before attending a site:

- Threatening language or behaviour towards site staff will not be tolerated
- CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition is in operation at all sites to protect the safety of members of the public and staff
- Children must remain in your vehicle
- All waste should be a size and weight that is manageable so that you can easily lift it into the containers.
- It is advisable when using the site to wear sensible footwear and, if bringing in items that are heavy or sharp, gloves are recommended.
- You cannot take away items or materials that have been deposited at the sites by others
- It is not permitted to park outside the site and carry waste in. Although a pedestrian footpath is available for residents only at our Deal HWRC, parking outside the HWRC is forbidden as it always needs to be kept clear for access.

Conclusion

Please consider the waste hierarchy and prevent or minimise waste where possible.

For example, only buy the amount of food you will use, using leftover food either as a separate meal or compost material would mean that there would be less food waste to dispose of at the expense of the tax payer. Similarly, many items can be re-used in the home or donated locally to avoid being sent to landfill.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) offer the opportunity to dispose of unwanted items. However, first consider the alternative options presented in this booklet. It might not be possible to re-use or donate all unwanted items, but a large majority can be put to another use before disposal.

Check websites for current information.

Waste Collection Authority Contact Details

- Ashford Borough Council
www.ashford.gov.uk/
- Canterbury City Council
www.canterbury.gov.uk
- Dartford Borough Council
www.dartford.gov.uk/
- Dover District Council
www.dover.gov.uk/
- Folkestone & Hythe District Council
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/
- Gravesham Borough Council
www.gravesham.gov.uk/
- Maidstone Borough Council
www.maidstone.gov.uk/
- Sevenoaks District Council
www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/
- Swale Borough Council
www.swale.gov.uk/
- Thanet District Council
www.thanet.gov.uk/
- Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
www.tmbc.gov.uk/
- Tunbridge Wells District Council
www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/

**All contacts are correct at time of publication*

Quick Links

- Right Waste Right Place
<http://www.rightwasterightplace.com/#intro>
- WCA Information
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/district-councils>
- Planned Works by KCC
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/find-planned-work-on-streets-near-you>
- To report a KCC problem including issues associated with signs, footpaths, lighting and potholes
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>
- Commercial Waste Disposal Guidance
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/business-and-commercial-waste>
- Find your nearest HWRC
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling>
- Environment Agency
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>
- Fly Tipping Reporting
<https://www.gov.uk/report-flytipping>
- Waste Transfer Station site locations
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/business-and-commercial-waste/transfer-stations>
- Permitted waste locations
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/business-and-commercial-waste>
- Duty of care code of practice
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-duty-of-care-code-of-practice>
- Public register for environmental information
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information>

