

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Recycling

Where should I put my green boxes, blue bag and food caddy for collection?

Containers should be put out to the kerbside by 7.30am on your scheduled collection day. If you fail to put your boxes, blue bag and food caddy out by this time your collection may be missed. If your property does not have a pavement or kerb adjoining its boundary, you can place your containers inside the curtilage of your property, to a maximum of 1.5 metres from the edge of the road.

Why can't I put all my recycling in a single box?

Due to the number of different types of materials collected for recycling, crews do not have the time to sort out the recycling for each household (please bear in mind that crews also have to wear thick protective gloves when loading).

In addition, the sides of the recycling vehicles have nowhere where boxes can be rested and supported to enable the crew to manually sort the recyclate.

Separating your materials into green boxes (one box for glass and bagged textiles; and a second box for plastic bottles, aerosols and cans/tins) and a blue bag (for cardboard and paper) helps ensure that materials stay in their different 'families' making it easier for them to be recycled.

Can I continue to use my old-style black box?

Although the Council no longer supplies these, you are welcome to continue to use the 'old-style' black crate to put out your recycling. Please use the crate in the same way you would use a green box.

Due to the weight of glass, it is suggested you use the crate for your tins/cans, aerosols and plastic bottles.

Why must all cardboard be presented inside the blue bag?

Ensuring that all cardboard (and paper) is inside the blue bag helps reduce potential littering, particularly when weather is bad. Also, the loaders need to be able to empty the bag through the opening on the compartment of the recycling vehicle. Cardboard larger than the blue bag may not fit.

As recycling crews will visit over 7,000 properties on average each day it is not possible for them to squash and flatten boxes. Very large pieces of cardboard may disproportionately reduce the space in the compartment forcing the vehicle to tip earlier than needed.

Finally, recycling cardboard and paper is helped if the material can be kept dry.

Why do you only collect small waste electrical and electronic items?

Small appliances are collected and put in to cages which are fixed to the underside of the refuse vehicles. Limiting the size to a standard supermarket carrier bag (or smaller) means that the vehicle will have space on the vehicle to take the item.

Larger items that do not fit inside a standard supermarket carrier bag will not fit in the cage but can be recycled for free by taking them to the local Household Recycling Centre.

Why do you only allow small bags of textiles in the kerbside recycling?

Collected textiles are put in a small cupboard on the recycling vehicle so we are unable to accept textiles in black sacks. Textiles must be bagged (please use a carrier bag or a bag of similar size) in order for them to be collected. So that textiles can be re-worn or re-used it is important that they are kept dry so please tie your bag before placing it in the recycling box. The bag needs to be placed in the box you use for your glass jars/bottles.

Whether you only have a small amount or a lot don't forget that local charity shops are always in need of good quality clothing and shoes too.

Can I use the kerbside service for other types of glass?

No. We can only take glass jars and bottles for recycling at the kerbside. Other types of glass may include additives which mean that they can't be recycling alongside the bottles and jars (for instance glass panes and Pyrex will be 'toughened'). Metal lids from glass jars can be put out in your recycling box for cans, aerosols and plastic bottles.

What do I do with excess recycling?

Excess recycling can be taken to the Household Recycling Centre in Broadwell (or Hempsted if you live in the north of the district) or to one of the district's local recycling bank sites. A list of locations, and what materials each site accepts, can be found on the Forest of Dean District Council website (www.fdean.gov.uk).

If you find you regularly have excess recycling please contact our customer services team and we can arrange for additional containers to be delivered to you.

Are there any plans to increase further the materials collected for recycling from the kerbside?

Not at the moment. In order to maintain the quality of the materials we collect for recycling it is important to keep them as separate as possible. This is achieved by having different compartments on the recycling vehicles. To add additional materials would require mixing the new materials in with the recyclables we currently collect. The materials would then need to be sorted back out at a special depot before the items can be recycled.

We are further limited due to having to use narrow bodied vehicles to ensure we can access all areas of the Forest of Dean.

Why aren't you collecting mixed plastics from the kerbside?

The main reason for only collecting type 1 (PET) and type 2 (HDPE) plastic bottles from the kerbside (and banks), is that these two types are easily sold on as there is a high demand for this type of plastic from reprocessors.

While some local authorities do collect mixed plastics (including tubs, yoghurt pots, trays and punnets) the end markets for these are limited. In many cases mixed plastics will be exported to China, which in more recent times, has started to become more selective about the quality of materials it accepts from the UK and Europe.

Demand for all plastics for recycling is also driven by the price for oil. When prices are lower, there is less incentive for manufacturers to buy recycled stock, opting for virgin sourced material instead.