

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Food Waste

What is food waste?

Prior to the new service, food waste (or kitchen waste) made up a significant proportion of the district's residual waste, which is sent to landfill. Food waste includes easily composted material such as vegetable peelings, teabags, and eggshells but also includes other foodstuffs such as meat and fish (raw and cooked, including bones), dairy produce, eggs, cereals, breads and pastries, rice, pasta, uneaten pet food, leftovers from the dinner plate and tea and coffee grounds, to name just a few.

I already compost. Is there a need to collect food waste?

The council will still continue to advocate the composting of food waste at home as this is the best environmental solution. However, analysis of our household waste - prior to us introducing the kerbside food waste service - showed that food waste accounted for over a quarter of all refuse so there is a need for this material to be collected.

Although many residents in the Forest of Dean partake in some form of composting, the food waste service allows for foodstuffs that are not easily composted at home to be recycled (such as cooked foods, meat and fish, solid fats, bones).

Studies have also shown that while householders may feel initially that they have very little food waste, when it is collected separately from the rubbish, there is a greater realisation of how much more is actually being thrown away.

I don't produce any food waste so why are you collecting it?

Depending on individual lifestyles, some people will have more or less food waste. Even if you don't throw food away you are likely to still have some unavoidable waste such as meat and fish bones, vegetable peelings, apple cores for instance.

Where should I put my food caddy for collection?

The large black caddy should be put out to the kerbside by 7.30am on your scheduled collection day. If you fail to put your 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 caddy inside the curtilage of your property, to a maximum of 1.5 metres from the edge of the road.

Do not put out the small silver caddy for collection even if you only have a very small amount of food waste. Instead, please decant this in to your larger outdoor caddy for emptying.

If you usually take your refuse and recycling to a collection point (for example if you live down a track), you will also need to leave your caddy at the same time.

Do I own the caddies?

The larger caddy remains the property of the Forest of Dean District Council. If you move house, please leave your outdoor caddy at the property for the next owner or tenant.

However, it is the responsibility of the householder to maintain their caddy in a hygienic and serviceable condition.

The smaller indoor caddy becomes the property of the householder.

Do I need to wrap my food waste before putting it into the outdoor caddy?

It is much easier to empty the contents of the small silver caddy if the food waste is tied in a plastic bag, paper bag or compostable liner. This will also help keep your caddy clean. Alternatively, food waste can be wrapped in paper (an old newspaper is ideal). Wrapping the food - rather than lining the caddy with paper - is easier as this will help prevent the contents getting stuck to the sides of the caddy.

Since August 2016 food waste has been collected on the main recycling vehicles. While food waste does not have to be wrapped in order for it to be collected it helps the crew enormously as the higher openings on the vehicle mean that crews have to – at times – lift the caddy quite high to empty it. Unwrapped food may add to spillages and can result in liquid running down on to the loaders if the material is particularly loose.

Can I line my outdoor caddy?

Yes, you can line the outdoor caddy if you wish. You can now use any plastic bag or compostable bag or alternatively line it with newspaper to do this.