

COMMUNAL BIN COLLECTIONS (HOUSEHOLD WASTE)

Communal bins may be provided as an alternative to individual bins where the design of the property makes the issuing or collection of household waste bins impractical.

- Bins are provided only for the disposal of general household waste and separated recyclable items.
- Large items such as furniture should be disposed of via Special Uplift or Household Waste Recycling Centres; where practicable reusable items should be donated to charity (more information is available from the National Reuse Hotline).
- Bins must be stored off street within the bin store, car park, etc. at all times, unless the bin has specifically been sited on the street by the Waste and Cleansing Service (e.g. in “traditional tenement” areas where there is no off street storage of waste).
- Bins will normally be provided for mixed recycling (paper and card, mixed plastics, cans and tins, empty aerosols and clean foil); glass, food and residual (“non recyclable”) waste.
- Bins will be emptied on a frequency that seeks to ensure they are not overfilled.
- Bins may be emptied on any day (including Saturday and Sunday) between the hours of 6 AM and 10 PM. Seven day access must be maintained. Safe access must be maintained at all times.
- Bins will be maintained regularly as required.
- Where bins are sited on private property it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that the property presents a safe working environment.
- The Waste and Cleansing Service will not be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of any property where bins are sited, or any bin lift mechanism, etc.
- Where properties are not maintained to an adequate and safe standard, the Waste and Cleansing Service may in exceptional circumstances suspend collections until the defect is rectified. In these circumstances it will be the responsibility of the landowner or factor to arrange and pay for any additional collections which are required.

COMMUNAL BIN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

During 2020 -2022, a project is taking place to improve the siting of communal bins, realign the service to improve recycling performance and enhance the streetscape overall. This means that many on street bin sites will change. To support this new siting parameters have been agreed by the Transport and Environment Committee (February 2020).

As far as possible these will be applied to all locations, albeit there may be occasions where the layout of the street prevents these being met in full.

The key priority criteria which will be used are:

- Range of materials collected
- Capacity provided
- Walking distance to bins

- Road safety requirements and streetscape

Other parameters which will be used are:

- parking optimisation
- siting of bins versus properties

Capacity

The following table provides an outline of the capacities to be provided for properties serviced by communal bins. These will be used as the basis for siting decisions and numbers of bins.

	Proposed capacity per property per week	Kerbside service capacity per property per week	Code of Practice capacity per property per week
Non-recyclable waste	140/170L	70L	70L
Mixed recycling	140/170L	120L	120L
Glass	5-20L	20L	20L
Food waste	5-20L	23L	23L

(The service standard set out in the Scottish Code of Practice for Household Recycling and Waste Collection is also included for reference.)

In the case of the bulkier streams (non-recyclable waste and mixed recycling) the aim is to match or exceed the capacity provided to a householder receiving the kerbside collection service. More flexibility is designed into the service for glass and food waste taking into consideration the less bulky nature of these materials as well as the impact of the Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers. However, the aim would still be to provide glass and food waste containers at each bin location.

The mixed recycling capacity represents an increase compared with the current capacity provided in most areas. The non-recyclable waste capacity is reduced to reflect this but is still significantly more generous than would be provided under the kerbside service, taking into account the particular characteristics of flatted properties (i.e. transient population, less ownership of a particular bin, lack of storage etc.).

Those two factors combined enhance the ability for residents to recycle conveniently while reducing the risk of overflow of non-recyclable waste when there is less engagement in the service.

Walking distance

One of the aims of the project is to reduce the number of bin locations while at the same time ensuring that the full range of waste and recycling services are provided at each location.

Reducing the number of locations in this way will mean that many people will need to walk further to dispose of waste and recycle.

There is a risk that in making people walk further there might be a barrier to segregating waste even with the increased recycling capacity and there is a risk for people with reduced mobility being able to use the service.

A balance therefore needs to be struck between these risks and the enhancement which the project will bring to the visual environment.

As far as possible bins will be sited in accordance with the “Mobility Component of the Personal Independence Payment” which is used by the Government to assess Mobility e.g. for Blue Badge access. This applies where a person cannot walk more than 50m.

Examples of circumstances where this might not be possible include main arterial routes, where bins have to be sited on side streets, however this would still be an improvement in most cases compared to the current situation.

For new developments, the present maximum walking distance for householder (from home to bin) must be no greater than 30 metres as per “Waste and Recycling - Instructions for Architects and Developers” and this will be maintained. This complies with:

- British Standard Waste Management in Buildings —Code of practice, BS5906:2005
<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pdf/BS5906-2005.pdf>
- “Making Space for waste – Designing Waste management in New Development – A practical guide for Developer and Local Authorities – Adept
http://www.lgcplus.com/Journals/3/Files/2010/7/14/ADEPTMakingspaceforwaste_000.pdf

Road Safety Requirements and streetscape

A range of parameters are used to site bins which ensure that road safety is not compromised. These include but are not restricted to:

- placing bin in locations where driver or pedestrian visibility is not affected. Bins should be positioned ideally 10 metres away from any junctions and pedestrian crossings.
- bins should preferably be located on the roadway not the footway. At some locations this is a significant change which takes into account the requirements of the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance which seeks to prioritise pedestrians over vehicles e.g. by reducing clutter and impediments on the footway. In addition, it seeks to declutter the visual environment and streetscape e.g. through the use of bin clusters at a smaller number of locations.

However, if this is not possible bins can still be sited on the pavement subject to factors such as width of pavement and distance left for wheelchair and pushchair users which should be a minimum of 2 metres.

- bin users should preferably not be required to cross a road to dispose of their waste and recycling. Every effort should be made to provide bins on the same side of the road as the users’ properties, unless a safe crossing place is nearby.
- bins should not be sited over manhole covers or other street furniture including gullies and other drains.
- bins should be located in such a way that the user is not required to stand in the flow of traffic in order to access the bin aperture.

Other parameters

Where a location is identified on the roadway where there is parking, as far as possible multiples of 5 metre stretches of parking will be used to guide the bin location to minimise any loss of parking spaces where that cannot be avoided.

ASSISTED COLLECTION STATEMENT (for communal bin areas)

- Assisted collections are available where all members of a household are unable to access their communal waste collection due to a disability or medical condition.
- If you request an Assisted Collection we will visit you within 10 working days; if you are eligible for an Assisted Collection we will specify a collection point which is accessible to you and the collection crews (e.g. at door to tenement on ground floor).
- We are NOT able to enter your property or communal stair
- We may need to visit you to confirm this.
- The collection point must be accessible to collection crews and not present a hazard (e.g. due to inadequate lighting, loose paving or other trip hazard). We are unable to hold keys.
- We will contact you regularly to check whether you still need the service.
- This will not usually take place more often than annually, except where a temporary Assisted Collection has been agreed for a shorter period.