

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Firstly, by trying to understand and follow the rules yourself.

You can get further information about the recycling facilities offered by the **kerbside collection** service, "**bring**" **sites** (e.g. in supermarket car parks), and advice on **waste reduction** and **home composting** by contacting us on (01502) 523117.

For **large or bulky items** of household waste: phone (01502) 523460 for details.

You can also help by spotting problems and passing information to us promptly. If you know of bins that are contaminated on a regular basis for whatever reason, please let us know by telephoning (01502) 523117.

WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER WITH ONE BIN AND WEEKLY COLLECTIONS?

The resources we consume and waste we generate during our daily lives can have an adverse effect on the environment.

We consume a lot of the world's resources when we convert raw materials into goods and products, use them for a relatively short time and then throw them away, usually to a landfill site.

Environmentalists are already predicting that we will be mining old landfill sites in a

few decades time, for raw materials to reuse in the future.

Our current attitude towards waste is not sustainable and simply does not make sense. We all have moral and legal responsibilities to do our bit to achieve a sustainable society.

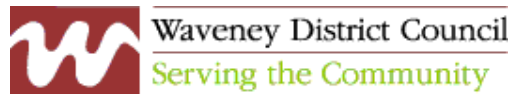
The Council has taken some unpopular decisions to try to make it easier for us all to contribute to this effort. We are committed to continuing to so because **we do not believe we have any choice.**

You can help by following the rules set out in this leaflet.

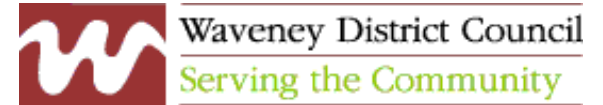
CONSULTATION

Please write to us at the address at the foot of this leaflet or email us at: environment@Waveney.gov.uk

or use the feedback form at www.waveney.gov.uk to let us know what you think.



Issued by: Waveney District Council, Town Hall,
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(01502) 523117
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Bin Contamination

A cleaner, safer neighbourhood. We all want it. We can all help to achieve it.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH BIN CONTAMINATION?

Waveney District Council offers three bins to all households for the disposal of household waste through a system of alternate-week collections.



- **BLUE BIN** – For recyclable Paper, Cardboard, Metals and Rigid Plastic.
- **GREEN BIN** – For Biodegradable Garden Waste
- **BLACK BIN** – For Residual Waste

The Council has a duty to provide a free collection service for household waste.

Householders have a duty to present their waste for collection in accordance with the collection arrangements in force from time to time. The kerbside collection scheme operated in the Waveney District

for household waste requires waste to be sorted into the appropriate bins before being put out for collection.

With Government recycling targets to achieve and over 50,000 households to deal with, this is the only practical way to provide a cost effective waste collection service.

“**Contamination**” is when the wrong type of material ends up in the wrong colour bin. Contamination severely disrupts the sorting and processing of the waste at the Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF).

The presence of just one or two contaminated bins a freighter-load can mean that the entire load has to be rejected by the MRF. Every time this happens, it costs about **£500** in lost income from the waste and the additional costs of repacking the waste and transporting it to a landfill site.

This is why we try to ensure that everybody understands how the kerbside collection scheme works and how to use it properly.

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF CONTAMINATION?

Sometimes, householders misunderstand the scheme because we don't explain ourselves well enough. The rules about what to put in which bin can sometimes be misunderstood.

Sometimes, **holiday visitors** or **new residents** in the area misunderstand how the scheme should be used. (Other Local Councils around the Country operate similar schemes with slightly different rules, so this is not surprising.)

Sometimes, bins may get contaminated because **householders are unwilling**, for whatever reason, to follow the rules of the scheme. Occasionally, bins become contaminated when passers-by use any available bin left out on the street for indiscriminate casual dumping.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

We try to make clear information available, which explains how to use the scheme. A full list of what can be put in each colour bin can be obtained by calling 01502 523561 or by emailing: recycling@waveney.gov.uk or by visiting our website at www.waveney.gov.uk.

The refuse freighter crews will carry out checks during the collection round. (This is why you may have seen them taking a quick look in your bin.)

They will not collect contaminated bins. Instead, they will fix a yellow sticker to the bin to notify the householder of the problem, and note the address. The bin will not be collected until the contamination is removed.

When it appears that somebody has trouble following the rules, we will always

Some of the most common causes of bin contamination are:

- Putting carrier bags, bin bags (e.g. black sacks) and other similar plastic film materials in the green or blue bin: ***Flimsy plastic material can only go in the black bin.***
- Putting glass in the blue bin: ***Glass must not be put in the blue bin. It should be taken to a bottle bank. If you can't take it to a bottle bank, then it should go into the black bin.***
- Putting plastic (like compost sacks, plant pots and seed trays) in the green bin: ***Only compostible waste can go in the green bin.***

NB You CAN put food waste in the green bin: but **DON'T WRAP IT IN PLASTIC BAGS.**

Wrap it in a sheet of newspaper or one of the special corn starch bags.

try to find out why and see if we can offer any further information or assistance.

If there is no particular reason why a householder is not following the rules, we may need to take firmer action to help maintain the overall effectiveness of the scheme and protect public health.

BIN CONTAMINATION AND THE LAW

We will always try to adopt a balanced approach to education and enforcement. Our Enforcement Policy sets out how we will decide what approach to take, but we can take legal action in difficult cases.