

Newsletter



Working together
to deliver Waste Services
stratford.gov.uk | warwickdc.gov.uk



Waste Collections

February 2022 | No. 1

What is the 123+ waste collection service?

1

A food waste collection, every week using a food caddy (a small kitchen caddy for inside the property) and a larger food waste bin to use outside and put out for collection.

2

A recycling collection, every two weeks using a wheeled bin for mixed recycling. Stratford District residents will continue to use their existing recycling bins. In Warwick District, a new blue-lidded bin will be provided to replace the current red box/bag recycling containers.

3

A refuse collection, every three weeks using the existing grey wheeled bin.

+

Garden waste collection, every two weeks using the existing green wheeled bin.

Food waste collections

Food waste makes up approximately a third (33%) of householders' refuse bins. Collecting food waste from households weekly using a separate container is a common collection method used by many local authorities in the UK. This method has been proven to increase the amount of food waste recycled and reduces the waste in refuse bins more than other collection methods.

The new food waste recycling service will make it easy for people to recycle their food waste every week. This will help remove any smelly waste from refuse bins and provide more space for other rubbish. It also helps people realise how much food they waste each week and acts as a prompt to reduce avoidable food waste, such as making the most of leftovers, planning meals and creating shopping lists and storing food correctly.

What will residents be able to recycle?

Residents will be able to recycle paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, metal tins and cans, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, and food and drink cartons.

In Warwick District, a new blue-lidded wheeled bin will be provided to replace the current red box/bag recycling containers. Residents will no longer need to sort their recycling – it can all be mixed together in the new bin. We just ask that it is clean, dry and loose (e.g. no plastic carrier bags, black sacks, etc.). And the good news is... we will finally be able to collect food and drink cartons (e.g. Tetrapaks) for recycling!

In Stratford District, residents can continue to recycle as normal - there are no changes to the recycling service.

Refuse and recycling collections for flats

Our aim is to provide a recycling service for all residents living in flats, however this can sometimes be challenging in terms of space and access.

In Stratford District, a comprehensive refuse and recycling service for flats is already provided.

In Warwick District, we have been reviewing the refuse and recycling services currently provided to flats and looking at

what improvements can be made.

We hope to be able to introduce a recycling service to those flats currently without, wherever possible. We also hope to improve signage on bins and communication with residents of flats who already have a recycling scheme in place to ensure they know how to make best use of the service.

Further details will follow in due course.

Properties with sack collections

One of the benefits of the 123+ collection service is that there can be different methods of collection on the same street (e.g. a mix of wheeled bins and sacks) which is not something that Warwick District Council has been able to accommodate before.

We have recently written to all properties in Stratford and Warwick Districts currently receiving a refuse collection using sacks to ask if they have space on their property to store wheeled bins for refuse and/or recycling. Residents have until 4 March 2022 to request bins. All bins requested by the deadline will be provided free of charge and delivered in spring/summer 2022, prior to the start of the new service. Charges will apply to any wheeled bins requested after the deadline.

If properties do not have room to store wheeled bins, we will continue to collect refuse in sacks and recycling in boxes/bags.

From 1 August 2022, the new service for these properties (regardless of whether they use sacks or wheeled bins) will be as follows:

- Food waste collection - every week using a food caddy (a small kitchen caddy for inside the property) and a larger food waste bin to use outside and put out for collection.
- Recycling collection - every two weeks using boxes or a new blue-lidded wheeled bin for mixed recycling
- Refuse collection - every two weeks using sacks or a grey wheeled bin
- Garden waste collection - every two weeks using a green wheeled bin (optional)

Additional refuse capacity

We will be encouraging residents to reduce their waste by recycling as much as possible using the blue-lidded wheeled bin and food waste bins. The size of the grey bin should be adequate if residents are using the new recycling services fully.

Households which meet the following criteria will be able to request additional refuse capacity:

- six (6) or more permanent occupants in the Household; or
- two (2) or more children in disposable nappies; or
- residents with a medical need using incontinence products.

Fly-tipping

The experience of other Councils who have moved to three-weekly refuse collections is that there was very little or no increase in fly-tipping of household waste.

However, this will be monitored very closely in both Stratford and Warwick Districts and enforcement action taken wherever possible.

A fly-tipping CCTV trial is currently underway in the Sydenham area of Warwick District. Results of the trial will be shared in due course.

Nappies

To avoid smells, we recommend residents double bag all used disposable nappies and tie tightly before placing them in the grey bin as well as emptying any 'solids' down the toilet beforehand.

If there is still concern about nappies causing smells, then we would advise washing the bin occasionally with washing up liquid and/or boiling water.

We appreciate that households with children in nappies may also produce a larger quantity of waste. Households with two or more children in disposable nappies permanently living at the same address will be able to request additional refuse capacity. Further details will be provided in due course.

Absorbent Hygiene Products

With incontinence/colostomy type waste, the advice is to double bag it and tie it tightly before putting in the grey refuse bin, removing air to slow down decomposition.

This type of waste is non-hazardous and therefore poses no risk to human health.

Any hazardous waste (such as swabs and dressing from infectious wounds) will continue to be collected weekly as part of our clinical waste service.

Steps to keep bins clean

We will be providing the following advice to residents who have concerns about smells:

1. Close bin lids to keep pests away and minimise any smells.
2. Recycle your food regularly.
3. Put your food bin out for collection every week, even if it is not full.
4. Keep bins and food caddy cool.
5. Store your bins out of direct sunlight if you can, as heat can speed up the generation of smells.
6. Regularly wash your bins out with hot soapy water.
7. Sprinkle some soda and a twist of lemon to get rid of lingering odours.
8. Use old newspaper to absorb excess moisture and avoid mouldy stuff getting stuck in the corners of your food caddy. You can wrap your food scraps in newspaper or line your food caddy with it.

Communications

A comprehensive communications plan has been developed to support the 123+ service change. Please find our 3-month rolling plan of communications activity attached.