



*don't*

*Rubbish*

*our future*



recycle it!

*Epping Forest District Council*  
[www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

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2006





# Refuse and Recycling in Epping Forest District

## An updated guide to your wheelie bin-based collection service

### Why is the service changing?

The UK has traditionally disposed of its domestic waste in large landfill rubbish dumps. However, landfill does huge amounts of environmental damage and is being rapidly reduced. People living in Essex have said they do not want incinerators and would prefer more recycling instead of landfill.

### Playing our part for a better environment

Recycling is now part of everyday life for most people. Epping Forest District residents already recycle between a fifth and a quarter of our rubbish. That's not bad by UK standards but low compared to most of our European neighbours. We aim to increase recycling to around 50 per cent.

### What else can I do?

Epping Forest District produces around 50,000 tonnes of domestic waste every year. The best way to deal with our rubbish is not to create it in the first place. You can do this by thinking about the things you buy.

Food packaging is one of the largest contributors to landfill waste. Cut the waste by buying groceries such as fruit and vegetables loose. We can all bring pressure to bear on the supermarkets and the packaging industry by insisting on less packaging and less waste.



### The future

The introduction of wheelie bins marks a significant change to the disposal of domestic waste in Epping Forest but it won't be the last. Refuse collection and recycling companies have been invited to tender for a new refuse collection and recycling contract in 2007. The Council aims to get the best deal we can and will consider the bids that maximise recycling at the best price and in the most efficient and convenient way for you. We are keeping our options open including a possible return to weekly collection for some types of waste such as food.

Demand for recycled materials is also changing. As environmentally-friendly waste disposal increases, refuse and recycling services will evolve and develop to keep pace. Currently around three quarters of the contents of the average dustbin could be recycled but who is to say where we will be in years to come? One day landfill may be consigned to the history books and the contents of your bin will be 100 per cent recycled.

### Wheelie bin or recycling?

The basic rule of thumb for your refuse is simple. If it can't be recycled, it should go in your wheelie bin. If it can be recycled, it should go in one of the following containers:

**Blue Box:** For glass bottles and jars only.

**Clear Sacks:** For paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans. No drinks cartons of the 'Tetrapak' type as these may be lined with non-recyclable material.

**Garden Sacks:** For garden waste including grass cuttings, hedge clippings, leaves, weeds and small branches no more than 600mm in length or 30mm in diameter.

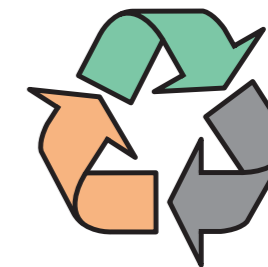
There is no limit to the amount of recyclable waste you can put out. If you have more than your blue box and sacks can hold, you can get more sacks from the Council. We will also take extra glass in cardboard boxes and dry recyclables such as paper and plastic bottles in carrier bags.

**Wheelie Bin:** Your official wheelie bin is the place to put your non-recyclable household domestic waste. Please don't use any other type of wheelie bin as our contractors will not empty it. Always remember to place your wheelie bin or recycling on the boundary of your property by 7am on the day of collection but no earlier than the night before.

### Side waste

Side waste is the term used to describe non-recyclable rubbish left next to wheelie bins. It will not be taken away. If you regularly find you do not have enough space in your wheelie bin, talk to Environmental Services. You may find you can recycle more to create space in your wheelie bin or you may be entitled to a bigger bin.

We aim to work with you but Councils do have powers to enforce the laws on side waste if necessary.



### Household waste

Builders' rubble, old furniture, medical supplies and equipment, half empty pots of paint, car batteries or tree branches are just some of the items that are not household waste and will not be collected from your wheelie bin. Contact Environmental Services for advice if you need to dispose of something special!

### Better than recycling

What could be better than recycling? Not making the rubbish at all!

We can all cut down on the amount of food packaging we throw away by buying groceries and other goods loose. There is also a thriving second hand market for goods donated to charity shops. So long as they are in reasonable condition, your local charity will take clothes, shoes, books and furniture. Some will even collect from your doorstep.

Rather than putting your garden waste out for collection, turn it into compost. Call 0845 0770759 for a low-cost garden composter.

The delivery of wheelie bins to homes on Thursday and Friday collection rounds signals the completion of the transfer of domestic waste collection and recycling to alternate weekly collection in Epping Forest.

This updated guide gives existing and new users of wheelie bins a run down on the main features of the system and changes since the first wheelie bins were delivered to households in 2005.

### Each wheelie bin has been delivered with a special information pack including:

- A leaflet like this one explaining how the new service will work.
- A calendar showing when collections will take place.
- A reminder notice to stick on the inside of your wheelie bin.
- A plain white sticker on which to write the number of your home on your wheelie bin.

Calendars are re-issued periodically to keep you up to date and are important because they tell you which type of refuse or recycling to put out each week. In addition to your new wheelie bin, you will also use sacks and your blue box to separate waste materials out for recycling.





### Keep it clean

You may need to store waste for up to two weeks. To keep your wheelie bin clean and fresh, bag your rubbish before throwing it away. Any plastic bag will do.

Keep the lid of your wheelie bin down to make it animal resistant. Wrapping waste food and rinsing food and drink containers is important. It helps to avoid attracting insects and animal pests while stored at your property but also makes the work of refuse collectors and recycling centre employees much more pleasant.

If necessary, clean the inside of your wheelie bin and blue box with warm soapy

water. There are also private companies who will carry out this service for a small charge.

### Why can't I recycle some kitchen waste and plastics?

Some types of kitchen waste such as meat, cooked and processed food cannot be composted or recycled and should go in your wheelie bin. Some kinds of plastic are also unsuitable for recycling at the moment such as plastic bottle lids, although the range of recyclable plastics is increasing all the time.



### More information

For more information about any of the issues in this booklet or to obtain a large print or Braille version, click on the wheelie bin at [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk) or phone Environmental Services on 01992 564608.



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