

Contamination Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure compliance with Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy through ensuring that smaller containers are made available to residents who request them and that larger or additional containers are only provided subject to strict qualification criteria and to comply with the requirements of sections 46(3)(a) and 46(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

This policy is intended to ensure that only the correct materials are placed in the containers provided for collection. If a container is contaminated it may lead to the collection vehicle having its whole vehicle load rejected by the recycling reprocessor. The Council will then have to meet the costs of the re-collection and removal of all the waste and transporting and disposing to landfill. Residents will therefore be required to comply with the following requirements:

Residual waste:

- (1) The residual wheelie bin shall only contain those items that cannot be recycled using the Council's kerbside recycling services or the County Council's civic amenity sites (household waste recycling centres). Those materials suitable for recycling can be found in the Council's waste service leaflets, calendars and on the Council's website.
- (2) The residual wheelie bin will be classed as contaminated if it contains significant quantities of any of the following recyclable materials:

Food Waste.
Garden Waste
Paper and Cardboard.
All Metal Tins and Cans.
All Glass and Plastic Bottles.
Textiles
Small WEEE (Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment)– such as
hairdryers, kettles, or other items of a similar carrier bag size.

Food and garden recycling service:

- (1) The food & garden recycling service wheelie bin shall only contain food and garden waste. The list of acceptable garden waste can be found in the Council's waste service leaflets, calendars and on the Council's website.
- (2) The kitchen caddy is for the storage of food waste only. When full the food waste should be transferred to the food and garden recycling wheelie bin or the kerbside caddy where provided. The list of acceptable food material is available in the Council's waste service leaflets, calendars and on the Council's website.
- (3) If a kerbside caddy is provided instead of the food and garden recycling wheelie bin, it shall only be used for food waste collection.

Dry recycling service (clear sack and blue box):

- (3) Containers used for dry recycling must not contain any residual waste or food and garden waste. Glass shall be kept, in the blue box provided, separate from all other dry recyclable materials to avoid broken glass causing contamination.
- (4) If a trial Blue lidded wheelie bin is issued – 3 above must be adhered to except that glass can go into the wheelie bin.

Contaminated containers:

- (5) If any container is found at the point of collection to be contaminated the waste contractor will not collect the container and it will be left at the kerbside with a sticker identifying the problem. If a container is left because of contamination the resident may:
 - (i) remove the contamination and represent the uncontaminated container on the next due collection day; or
 - (ii) make their own arrangements for the proper & legal disposal of the wheelie bin's waste.

Other options for residents are:

- (iii) If they do not want to wait until their next scheduled collection, remove the contamination and pay the relevant collection charge for a special wheelie bin/container collection: or:
- (iv) Pay the higher relevant collection charge for a special wheelie bin/container collection through the Council without removing the contamination.