



Policy for alternate weekly kerbside refuse and recycling collections

1. Introduction

The alternate weekly collection of refuse will fundamentally change refuse and recycling collection services so that Richmondshire District Council meets its obligations to maximise recycling and reduce waste going to landfill. In order for these new systems to operate effectively and efficiently, and to implement new services to as many residents as is practicable, a consistent approach must be taken. The aims of these policies are to ensure that the new systems implemented are not undermined and that conflict is minimised should different levels of service be demanded by residents.

1.0 Containers

- 1.1 A single 240 litre dark grey wheeled bin will be provided for the collection of residual refuse on an alternate week basis.
- 1.2 A single 140 litre green wheeled bin will be used for the collection of garden waste on the alternate week to the residual refuse. Biodegradable sacks may also be purchased from the Council for excess garden waste.
- 1.3 A single 55 litre green plastic box with a black lid will be provided for the collection of glass and cans on the alternate week to the residual refuse.
- 1.4 A blue reusable bag will be provided for the collection of paper.
- 1.5 The bags/boxes/bins remain the property of Richmondshire District Council and must be left with the property when residents move. For new properties, bins/boxes/bags with information packs will be delivered within 10 working days of receipt of a request. Occupiers are responsible for the safe storage of the bins/boxes/bags at their address and for cleansing of the bins/boxes.
- 1.6 Wheeled bins, boxes and bags which are damaged or lost, will be replaced or repaired free of charge to the householder.

2. The Alternate Weekly Collection System

- 2.1 Residents will continue to receive a weekly collection of waste with different waste streams being collected on different weeks. The grey wheeled bin for residual refuse will be collected one week and the green wheeled bin, green box and blue bag will be collected on the alternate weeks.
- 2.2 Bags/boxes/bins must be out for collection by 7:30am on the scheduled day of collection. The occupier should place the bin, bag or box for collection at the closest point to the edge of the nearest main highway (see note below), in such a position that it does not cause an obstruction on the highway. Wheeled bins must be placed with handles facing towards the roadside and boxes must be presented without the lid. Those containers not presented correctly will not be collected until the next scheduled collection day.
- 2.3 Residents living in remote properties, e.g. at the end of a farm track, will be required to bring their containers out to the edge of the nearest main highway (see note below) on collection day. Where there are four or more properties up the track or lane, a designated collection point may be established, subject to a site assessment by Officers to the access road as being suitable for refuse/recycling vehicles.
- 2.4 Multi-occupancy or multi-storey properties will be considered for individual solutions, tailored to meet their specific requirements. This may involve the provision of bulk containers for the collection of refuse and recycling but will be subject to an individual assessment by Officers.
- 2.5 Where the collection point of the bag/box/bin may cause a problem, the householder or occupiers should contact the Waste Management team where an Officer will carry out a site visit to determine a suitable collection point.
- 2.6 Bags/box/bin will be returned to the collection point by operatives after they have been emptied. The occupier or householder must then return the containers to within the confines of their own property once the collection has been made.
- 2.7 Where there is no member of the household who can manage to present the bin, box, bag at kerbside, due to infirmity and/or disability can be registered to receive an assisted collection, where the collection crews will enter the property to collect the containers at an agreed point and return them to the collection point once emptied.
- 2.8 Properties with combined residential and commercial waste (eg Bed & Breakfast accommodation) may, where appropriate, be supplied with containers as detailed above, where practicable, and the domestic

reduction removed from their Commercial Waste Contract, subject to an individual assessment by Officers.

Note – ‘nearest main highway’ includes an ‘adopted highway’ or ‘highway repairable at public expense’.

3. Materials to be Collected

- 3.1 The green wheeled bin is for the collection of garden waste only, including grass cuttings, prunings, hedge trimmings, weeds and small branches. No other waste (e.g. cardboard or food) will be collected in the green bin as the load would be considered to be contaminated.
- 3.2 If contamination is found in the green bin, the bin will be left with a ‘contamination card’ attached informing the resident why the collection has been rejected. It will be the responsibility of residents to remove the contamination and present the bin for collection on the next scheduled day.
- 3.3 The green box is currently to be used for the collection of mixed glass bottles/jars of all colours, food/drinks cans and empty aerosol cans. All items should be rinsed where possible before being placed in the box. Food and drinks cans should be crushed before being placed in the box. Plastic lids should be removed from aerosol cans but the aerosol can must not be crushed. No broken bottles/jars should be put in the box. Window glass, drinking glasses or Pyrex will not be collected. Any changes to the types of materials collected in future will be notified to residents accordingly.
- 3.4 If incorrect items are presented in the green box, they will not be collected and a contamination card will be left as detailed in 3.2.
- 3.5 The blue bag is for the collection of paper including newspapers, magazines, telephone directories, Yellow Pages, catalogues, junk mail and office paper. No cardboard, envelopes or shredded paper will be collected. Contaminated bags will not be collected and a contamination card will be left as detailed in 3.2
- 3.6 If a resident persistently contaminates any of the containers an Officer will carry out a site visit to advise the resident on the correct way to use the containers.
- 3.7 The grey wheeled bin is for residual refuse only. This is any waste that cannot be recycled in the containers provided. Residents will be encouraged to recycle items such as cardboard and plastic at recycling centres across the district and to take unwanted clothes, toys etc to a local charity shop for re-use.

4. Excess Residual Waste/Closed Lid Policy

- 4.1 Only waste contained within Richmondshire District Council issued containers will be collected.
- 4.2 The lid of the bin must be fully closed. If the lid is not fully closed, the crews will remove the top bag or other waste, empty the bin, and return the excess to the wheeled bin. Any additional waste left alongside the bin will also be placed back into the emptied wheeled bin. No excess waste will be taken until the next scheduled collection day.

5. Requirements for additional capacity

- 5.1 Properties with 6 or more permanent residents will be eligible for additional residual wheeled bin capacity. Those households seeking additional capacity should contact the Waste Management team where an Officer will assess the request.
- 5.2 Households who have residents with a medical condition which produces excess waste may also qualify for additional capacity for residual waste. These households must apply for additional containers in writing to the Waste Management team, accompanied with a Doctor's certificate, where it will be assessed by Officers.
- 5.3 Those properties qualifying for additional capacity will receive a 360 litre wheeled bin for residual refuse instead of a 240 litre wheeled bin.
- 5.4 Requirements for additional capacity for garden waste will be met by the purchase of green biodegradable bags from Community Offices. Any property with more than a single green wheeled bin will firstly be notified in writing before the additional bin is removed.
- 5.5 Requests for additional 55 litre boxes for dry recyclate will be subject to an individual assessment by Officers who may issue an additional box free of charge.

6. Exemptions to the scheme

- 6.1 Properties which are deemed potentially unsuitable to participate in the alternate weekly collection system will be subject to an individual assessment by Officers to determine the most suitable collection method. This will apply to both recycling collections and residual waste collections.
- 6.2 Green biodegradable sacks for the collection of garden waste will be

provided free of charge for the collection of garden waste to those properties unable to house a wheeled bin, subject to an assessment of the property by Officers.

7. Enforcement

- 7.1 Persistent infringements of stated policies on contaminated or excess waste may be the subject of enforcement action.
- 7.2 Whilst formal action, which may include prosecution or fixed penalty notices, is considered to be a last resort, such action may be taken should Officers have sufficient evidence that offences have been committed in contravention of either the Environmental Protection Act 1990 or the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005.
- 7.3 The Green Living Spokesperson and the Ward Member must be consulted before initiating any legal proceedings.

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