

Recycling and waste

Frequently asked questions

Relating to the contamination policy implementation in particular:

Q: Why are you checking to see what is in my blue lidded recycling bin?

A: We are looking to see if people are using their blue lidded recycling bins properly as we are getting such a lot of rubbish put into them. If they are using the recycling bin incorrectly we will write to them to let them know.

Q: Why does it matter if the wrong things are put in the blue lidded recycling bin, don't you sort it anyway?

A: We can only take the right materials in the recycling bin otherwise it creates more work at the sorting facility and this costs much more in additional sorting costs. If the load has a lot of rubbish in it, it will be rejected and this will cost even more in disposal costs.

Q: What happens if I put the rubbish into the blue lidded bin?

A: We will not collect any items in the blue lidded recycling bin which are not the correct materials for recycling, as they will contaminate the load. The collection crew will put a label on your bin asking you to remove the inappropriate material. The bin will be emptied on the next collection day once you have removed the incorrect items.

Q: Why are you issuing me with a fixed penalty notice and/or removing my blue lidded recycling bin?

A: We are issuing you with a fixed penalty notice and/or removing your bin because after writing to you on two separate occasions you are still putting the wrong materials in your blue lidded recycling bin. If we continue to empty your recycling bin it will contaminate the whole load and prevent it from being recycled.

General Q&As:

Q: What can I put in my blue lidded recycling bin?

A: You can recycle newspapers, magazines, paper, junk mail, glass bottles and jars, tins, cans and aerosols, food and drink containers such as all types of bottles, punnets, trays, pots and tubs, detergent and cleaning bottles, card and cardboard in the blue lidded bin. Please make sure all items are clean and loose inside the bin.

Q: What happens to the mixed recycling from my blue lidded recycling bin?

A: It is sorted into individual materials at the Recycling Facility in Edmonton.

Q: What plastics do you accept for recycling?

A: We accept food and drink plastics such as all types of bottles (without lids), punnets, trays, pots and tubs, detergent and cleaning bottles for recycling. All plastic items must be rinsed clean and not have any food or drinks residue remaining.

Please do not put plastic bags in the blue lidded bin.

Q: Can I put Tetra-Pak style cartons in the blue lidded bin?

A: Yes, all styles and makes of paper based food and drinks cartons such as Tetra-Pak can be recycled in the blue lidded bin. Please clean all items and ensure there is no residue remaining in the items for recycling.

Q: What cardboard can I recycle?

A: You can recycle cardboard such as breakfast cereal boxes, ready meal outer wrappers, clean pizza boxes (without any food), greetings cards and card multipack drink boxes. As always things need to be clean and flattened to save space. Please separate any plastic wrappers from the cardboard. You can also recycle corrugated/brown cardboard.

Q: What colour glass can I recycle?

A: Any colour of glass can be recycled. No Pyrex, window, strengthened or drinking glass can be put in the blue lidded bin. If these items can be reused, please take to a charity shop or similar reuse organisation. If it is broken, please wrap safely and put in the grey rubbish bin.

Q: What kind of paper is acceptable?

A: Newspapers and magazines; white office paper and envelopes; brown paper bags and envelopes; all types of catalogues and brochures; telephone directories and Yellow Pages; leaflets and glossy paper inserts including junk mail.

Q: Can I put out broken Pyrex, glasses, mirrors, picture glass or greenhouse glass for recycling?

A: No. Please wrap these in newspaper, tape securely and put into your grey rubbish bin. For large quantities of glass, please take it to the Household Recycling Centre.

Q: Can I put out shredded paper for recycling?

A: Yes, a small amount is acceptable. Please put it in a newspaper or other paper before putting it into the recycling bin to avoid it blowing around and littering the area.

Q: How clean must the recycling be?

A: We ask that food and drinks containers and bottles for recycling are rinsed out because residue like sour milk can ruin other materials. A quick rinse or wash is normally enough to remove food and drink residue.

Q: Can I put plastic bags in my blue lidded recycling bin?

A: No, the recycling **must** be loose in the bin. At no point can the bags be split open and the items removed prior to recycling. Please do not put plastic bags in the recycling bin; this includes plastic carrier bags, bread bags, frozen food bags, pet food bags, compost bags.

Q: Why can't I put plastic bags in the blue lidded recycling bin?

A: Plastic bags and plastic film are technically recyclable; however, they are a major problem for mixed recycling programs like we have in Enfield. Because of the way the material is handled at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), all recyclables *must be loose*. Leaving recyclables in any sort of plastic bag creates a major problem at the recycling facility. Any plastic bags left in the recycling bin can cause problems at the Material Recycling Facility. Either the bags or plastic film will wrap around the sorting equipment and shut them down or they pass through the sorting process and often wind up in the paper bales. Since plastic is obviously not paper, it is a major contaminant of paper bales and may lead to the paper bales being unmarketable and therefore not recycled.

Q: Why can't I put tissues in the blue lidded recycling bin?

A: The fibers are too weak to be turned into usable paper. And tissue is often contaminated with oils that make them unable to be recycled—the same problem is inherent in trying to recycle paper towels. Please place these items in your grey lidded general waste bin.

Q: What time must my bin be out?

A: All containers need to be out for 6:30am. Collections crew cannot return if your bin is out late.

Q: Does the lid of the blue lidded bin need to be closed?

A: Yes. Excess recycling can either be stored for the next collection, or taken to the Household Recycling Centre.

Q: Can I have an extra blue lidded bin?

A: Yes, if you would like to order another blue lidded recycling bin, please order it on-line. There will be a charge of £51 and you can have a maximum of 2 bins.

Q: What about lids, corks and stoppers from glass jars and bottles?

A: Metal lids can go in the blue lidded bin. Please remove corks and plastic lids/stoppers and put them into the grey rubbish bin.