

## **Exemptions Policy - Recycling and Waste Collections**

The Council recognises that properties, locations and circumstances within the Borough are diverse and that there are a number of property types and personal circumstances that will need adjustments to the standard collection methods. It is unavoidable that some properties will not be able to use wheeled bins, due to the access and location of their property or that some households may find the capacity and frequency of collections more challenging for various reasons. Such properties will be identified through this exemptions policy. This policy is specific to those properties receiving a kerbside collection for recycling and waste.

Properties using communal storage areas are not applicable to this policy.

Those properties and circumstances considered unsuitable for the standard collection service will be identified through a number of measures including:

- GIS Mapping
- Local zone officer knowledge
- Site visits
- Resident contact and special requests followed up by zone and recycling staff assessment.

Properties that may be considered unsuitable for wheeled bins include those properties for which unhindered access to place wheeled bins on the boundary is problematic. For example:

- Properties situated on a steep slope
- Properties accessed by several steps
- Properties where storage of wheeled bins prevent access to the boundary or safe presentation of the bin for collection (for example: terraced houses directly fronting the street)

It is also acknowledged that for a proportion of residents, their circumstances rather than the property itself will present difficulties for either a single 180ltr wheeled bin or an alternate weekly collection. For example:

- Residents living in large Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) or large families.
- Residents requiring collection of offensive waste such as those self-treating at home and families with young children in nappies.

The purpose of this policy is to address these issues and put alternative measures in place to ensure waste and recycling collections meet the needs of affected residents. The Council reserves the right to review properties on exempt collections, and if deemed no longer appropriate, to withdraw this service.

### Flats and communal Bin Stores

Some properties within the Borough already have communal wheeled bin storage areas. These areas will not be affected by the changes to collection methods.

### Assisted Collections

Elderly or disabled residents in wheeled bin areas may have concerns regarding the ability to manoeuvre wheeled bins or may already be supported by receiving the assisted collection service. Subject to usual reviews of the assisted collection service, currently entitled residents will continue to receive this service. Those for whom the changes represent a potential issue, application to the assisted collection service will be available via [the online application help with your regular recycling and rubbish collection](#) or our customer service centre. Assisted Collection service users may also qualify for further exemptions as detailed in this policy.

### **Definitions of waste**

Definitions of 'household', 'clinical' and 'offensive waste' are key to establishing what should be collected and by who. For clarity, the legal definitions have been interpreted and simplified as follows.

#### **Household Waste**

Waste generated by a property used for domestic purposes: house, caravan, vessel, etc collected through normal domestic waste collections.

#### **Offensive Waste**

Household waste containing bodily fluids, secretions, or excretions, which are not infectious and does not require treatment for disposal. Examples include: dressings, gloves, nappies, incontinence pads and sanitary products.

This waste can be collected through the normal domestic waste collection as long as it is appropriately bagged and sealed.

#### **Clinical Waste (including sharps/needles)**

Waste containing infectious material, such as something for which antibiotics may be prescribed, produced by a healthcare activity in the home is the responsibility of the authority giving the treatment to remove from the property.

This material **must not be placed in with household waste collections.**

Sharps boxes are available on prescription (FP10) and can be returned to the healthcare trust free of charge. Local Authorities currently have a duty to collect and

dispose of clinical waste but may make a charge to cover the cost of collection. This will continue to be the case going forward.

### **Collection of offensive waste from the home**

Colchester Borough Council will continue to collect offensive waste as part of normal residual waste collections either in sacks or bins.

Residents that qualify for an exemption as a result of large quantities of offensive waste will be provided with a weekly collection of this additional waste **only**.

Stickers will be provided to residents by the Council which will need to be placed on the bags containing offensive waste placed out for collection. **Only** bags with the appropriate stickers will be collected.

Numbers of sacks being collected will be monitored and qualifying circumstances will be reviewed periodically to ensure the service is still required.

Further information on these collections, including detailed definitions and how to request an exemption as a result of large quantities of offensive waste, is available on our website.

<b><u>Properties with unsuitable access or storage issues</u></b>
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### **Wheeled Bin Areas:**

Residents living in a property recognised as unsuitable for wheeled bins but living within an area collectively identified as supportive of wheeled bins are likely to be exempt and will be identified by using GIS, Zone Warden recommendation, results from the members consultation exercise and upon special request from the householder.

Properties identified as being exempt will not be issued with wheeled bins, and will receive the alternate weekly black sack collection for residual waste and alternate weekly collection using white sacks for garden waste. The residual waste collection is limited to three black bags per household unless the property is considered exempt by virtue of other exemptions identified through this policy.

Dry recycling will be collected on alternate weeks, through the green recycling box or clear sacks collection methods in line with the rest of the Borough. Food waste will be collected weekly.

**Large households (inc HMOs)**

Whilst it is recognised that larger families and households may create more waste, research has shown that moving towards an alternate weekly collection will support a more responsible attitude towards waste, created in part, by the restrictions on the bin space available.

Each household will have the capacity equivalent to an 180ltr wheeled bin (or 3 black sacks every two weeks) for residual waste. Recycling will be collected on alternate weeks with no capacity restrictions. Food waste will still be collected weekly.

This should provide ample disposal space if recycling responsibly. If capacity issues are not resolved by this method, in the first instance, advice and guidance will be offered to those households by our Community Zone Teams, where they make request for additional bin capacity. This will cover issues such as 'waste conscious' shopping, home composting and increasing recycling. A further visit to the property may be necessary if unresolved to ensure that the household is fully participating in the recycling collection services and should be recycling as responsibly as possible in line with previous advice in order to qualify for any additional bin capacity.

If it is recognised that a household requires the additional capacity, this will be allocated to the householder. If the householder moves house, they must inform the council and leave the authorised bin in place for us to remove. If they require additional refuse capacity at their new address, then they must re-apply.

This does not apply to families or large households otherwise identified through the Exemptions Policy.