



## Contamination

Developing awareness and having an educational approach to environmental issues is important to help residents understand their role in assisting with improved recycling and operating an efficient service. Contamination costs the district council money as it has to be removed from the recycling chain by contractors before the collected materials can be sold on for re-use.

All waste must be presented in council approved containers to ensure it can be safely collected from the kerbside.

The council will reject the collection of refuse, recycling and garden waste receptacles for the following reasons:

- Overloaded wheeled bin, box or other container
- Wrong containers presented - black bin presented on green waste week
- Wheeled bin is too heavy to lift - it contains heavy waste, such as construction, DIY or soil
- Contamination of general, garden waste or recyclable materials.

It is not acceptable for garden waste and recycling materials to be deposited in the black wheeled bin.

Contaminated general, garden waste or recycling wheeled bins or boxes will not be emptied. The council will follow the following procedure when repeated contamination occurs:

- **First contamination:** a leaflet will be hand delivered to the household by the refuse crew stating why the bin or box has not been emptied. It is the responsibility of the householder to remove the contamination and dispose of it in the correct manner. The council will not return to collect until the next scheduled collection day.

- **Second contamination:** bin or box will not be emptied and a letter will be issued to the property detailing the expected standards.
- **Third contamination:** bin or box will not be emptied and a further letter will be issued warning the service will be removed if the contamination does not cease.
- **Fourth contamination:** bin or box will not be emptied and a letter issued informing the resident that the service is being removed for three months as a result of the repeated contamination. After that period clear sacks will be supplied for three months in order to monitor the contents. If after that time contamination continues the service will be withdrawn completely.

Where contamination affects communal bins and there are continued problems the bins may be replaced with individual receptacles for residents.

The following are some of the items that will be treated as contaminants in the recycling bin or box:

- Pyrex glass in blue box
- Greenhouse glass in blue box
- All glass in the wheeled bin
- Rigid plastics, such as toys
- Solid metal items, such as padlocks or car parts
- Packaging heavily soiled with food or liquids
- Polystyrene packaging
- Polythene bags and sheet, food wrappers, carrier bags
- Wet cardboard