

Excess Rubbish Advice

Since the introduction of the alternate week collection system in April 2003 we have been working with a number of larger families who were having trouble with excess rubbish.

Based on what we have learnt from this work we have developed advice for anyone who finds that they regularly have problems with too much rubbish.

Get The Most Out of the Recycling Service.

It sounds obvious but it's worth checking that all of the materials we can collect are being separated into the containers provided - see list. We can also provide extra red boxes, blue bags, yellow bags or extra space for garden waste if you need it.



What Else Can be Recycled?

Beverage Cartons

These are a common material found in households struggling to reduce their waste. Increases in recycling efforts and participation have meant that materials previously thought un-recyclable are now fully recyclable in many places. Residents often do not realize beverage Cartons can be recycled, but they can, and by recycling these extra items you will find the amount of waste in your bin, drop.

Clothes and Shoes

Textiles can be recycled in many different places and are more often than not, washed and reused and sent out to areas of the world that need quality clothing. That means saving on the energy used to recycle them into new clothes. There lots of places all over the borough that you can deposit old clothes and textiles.

Mixed Plastics

There are many different types of plastic in production and there is a vast amount of products that use various plastic packaging. We offer a kerbside collection for plastic bottles, but currently we cannot accept other types of plastics. However, we do accept mixed plastics at the household waste sites, at Coalville, Lount, and Shepshed so if you find lots of mixed plastics are in your bin, bag them up and take them down to the closest site and recycle as much as you would like.

Get Rid of the Air

Bags of rubbish usually also contain trapped air. Removing this air before the bags are put in the bin can make a big difference to their size. It sounds obvious, but a lot of people leave squashing down bags until the bin is already full. This only squashes air out of the top bag or bags in the bin. Squashing each bag before it goes in the bin will make a much bigger difference.

Use All the Space

When it comes to getting as much in your bin as possible the rule is - the smaller the bags you use the better. Larger black bin bags quickly fill up the bin leaving lots of gaps in between them. Smaller bags fill all the spaces in the bin and compress much better. Even using a mixture of black bags and carrier bags will help fit more in.

Home Composting

Home composting is an ideal way to remove vegetable peelings, fruit, tea bags, shredded paper and cardboard from your bin. Bins are provided at a discounted cost with information on how to get started. You will of course also have the benefit of making your own compost.

Food Waste Disposal Units

If you have any non-compostable food waste why not fit a kitchen food waste disposal unit to your kitchen sink. The food waste is ground into tiny particles and is carried off with your waste water to be treated and recycled into bio gas and liquid fertiliser. For more on food waste disposers please visit www.sinkyourwaste.com

Nappies

We recommend the use of real nappies and can provide advice on the types available and where to get hold of them. Leicestershire County Council also runs a £30 cash back scheme on initial purchases or on laundry services. For families with babies' real nappies can be a big help in reducing waste. They are also a lot easier to use these days, can be used alongside disposables and come in lots of fun designs.

Other Tips

If you are worried about fitting all your waste into your bin, as well as following the advice above, there are also some other steps you can take to avoid having rubbish lying around.

Your wheelie bin has been designed to store rubbish and to stop smells getting out, and flies and other animals getting in. To get the most of your bin you should make sure that all your food waste and nappies are disposed of in the bin with the lid down. If you think you are going to struggle to get all your waste in the bin then keep clean packaging materials out of the bin in a bag until collection day. By keeping this clean material out of the bin you should be able to make more room for your food waste etc. On collection day you can then use any spare space in your bin for the clean material.

Don't forget that we have Recycling and Household Waste Sites for the disposal of unusual items, large items, electrical items etc.