

# YOUR HANDY GUIDE TO WASTE AND RECYCLING



[lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste](https://lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste)

# WHY RECYCLE?

We understand change can be difficult and that you want to do the right thing, which is why we've created this guide to help you make informed decisions about your waste and recycling.

Recycling isn't just about what goes in the right bin – it's about what comes out of our shared efforts to recognise the value in our "rubbish" and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and incineration.

By recycling, reducing or reusing the things you buy, you are protecting natural resources and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions that warm our planet and cause local flooding and wildfires.

Positive change doesn't always require grand gestures – sometimes it's as simple as rinsing a jar or flattening a box.

When we each play our part, the impact is powerful.



# HOW TO USE YOUR WASTE SERVICE



**To guarantee a collection, your waste should be at your collection point by 7am on your collection day - you can put it out the night before.**

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**Please make sure your bin lid closes and do not place any bags or cardboard outside your containers.**

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**Please store your bins, boxes or sacks on your property so they do not obstruct the pavement and stop other residents getting about.**



If you have misplaced your collection calendar, you can download a calendar online or pop into a customer service centre.

# WHAT GOES IN YOUR RED BIN

## Glass, cans and plastics



Plastic bottles



Lids



Tetra Pak



Plastic pots,  
tubs and trays



Glass bottles  
and jars



Metal  
packaging

## No thanks

- ✗ Food waste or liquids
- ✗ Coffee cups
- ✗ Plastic film
- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Crisp packets
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Bubble wrap
- ✗ Thick glass:  
candle holders; Pyrex;  
drinking glasses;  
mirrors; windows
- ✗ Heavy metals:  
gas containers;  
paint tins

Remember to **wash it** to ensure you do not contaminate any other materials and **squash it** to make more space in your recycling container.



If you are unsure about what plastic we collect, look for the triangle. We will collect plastics with these numbers.

# WHAT GOES IN YOUR YELLOW BIN

## Paper and cardboard



Cardboard



Newspapers



Magazines and brochures



Paper and card



Envelopes

### No thanks

- ✗ Dirty or greasy cardboard
- ✗ Jiffy bags
- ✗ Paper towels or tissues
- ✗ Cards with glitter, plastic or foil
- ✗ Coffee cups
- ✗ Tetrapaks



Please breakdown your cardboard and put it in your recycling container.

**Recycling these helps conserve trees and forests.** While it is possible to plant new trees, virgin rainforests and ancient woodlands cannot be fully restored once lost.

# WE ALSO COLLECT

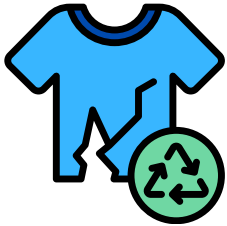


## Batteries

We'll collect your household batteries during a recycling collection.

**Put them in a clean recyclable plastic container with a lid and place on top of your recycling container.**

✗ No car, e-scooter or industrial batteries



## Textiles

We also collect clean and dry textiles. If they aren't in good enough condition for reuse, put them into clearly labelled carrier bags (not black bags) alongside your recycling container.

✗ No duvets, pillows, cushions or shoes



Battery fires put our staff in danger and cause delays to your collections. Never put them inside your waste containers.



# WHAT GOES IN YOUR GREY BIN



Depending on your property, you'll have either a grey bin, orange sacks or communal bins for non-recyclable waste

This is for waste such as:

- ✓ Dirty, wet or greasy card or paper
- ✓ Hard plastics that we do not collect
- ✓ Non-infectious absorbent waste (incontinence pads, nappies, sanitary products)
- ✓ Pet bedding, cat litter and animal faeces
- ✓ Polystyrene
- ✓ Tissues
- ✓ Wallpaper
- ✓ Wipes and used paper towel/napkins

We **cannot** accept:


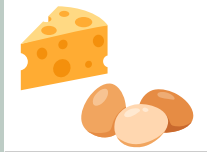
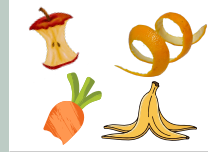
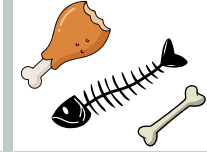



- ✗ Bricks, rubble, concrete, plasterboard
- ✗ Construction waste
- ✗ Car/motorbike parts or tyres
- ✗ Commercial, industrial or clinical waste
- ✗ Electrical items
- ✗ Hazardous waste: batteries; vapes; pesticides; asbestos

For items we cannot accept, you may be able to take these to a Household Waste and Recycling Centre.



# WHAT GOES IN YOUR FOOD WASTE CADDY

Place any raw or cooked food in your caddy, including the following:

						
Bread and pastries	Dairy and eggs	Fruit and vegetables	Meat, fish and bones	Pet food	Rice, pasta and beans	Tea and coffee grounds

Please do **not** put any of these in your caddy:

- ✗ Liquids, such as milk and oils
- ✗ Packaging (even if it states it is compostable)
- ✗ Garden waste (including cut flowers)



You can even scrape uneaten food straight into your caddy



70% of food waste produced in the UK comes from households and this can be used to generate electricity.

# GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

## Lancaster City Council offers a subscription based Garden Waste Collection Service

Our convenient Garden Waste service is collected fortnightly (except when suspended during the winter) and transformed into fertiliser. For 2026/7 the annual subscription cost is £46 per bin and you will need a garden waste bin – a service charge applies.

### What can go in your bin



**Leaves**



**Grass**



**Sticks and  
small branches**



**Weeds, bulbs,  
plants and  
flowers**



**Fallen  
fruit**



**Hedge  
trimmings**



**No soil**

If you decide that you don't want a subscription, you could compost your green waste at home or take it to a Household Waste and Recycling Centre.



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

Burning garden waste emits harmful pollutants into the air.

# LOCAL RECYCLING POINTS

**Lancaster City Council operates bring-sites for you to bring small items of recycling in Lancaster and Morecambe.**

Each site accepts the following items:

**Cans, cardboard, glass, paper, plastic, Tetra Pak, textiles, waste electrical and electronic equipment (including cables)**

- Auction Mart Car Park, Thurnham St, Lancaster
- Upper St Leonardsgate Carpark, Lancaster
- Morecambe Town Hall Car Park, Matthias Street

**Cans, cardboard, glass, paper and plastic**

- Alexandra Park, Alexandra Road, Morecambe
- Cavendish Road (Bold Street end), Morecambe
- Bull Beck Picnic Site, Brookhouse, Lancaster



Please separate these into the containers provided and do not leave any items on the floor to avoid fly-tipping.

# OTHER WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITIES

## Household Waste and Recycling Centres

You can also take waste and recycling to Household Waste and Recycling Centres run by Lancashire County Council at Salt Ayre Lane in Lancaster and Scotland Road in Carnforth.

For access arrangements and to find out what each centre accepts, please either visit [lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk) or call 0300 123 6781 to find out more.

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## Other local recycling facilities

There are lots of other recycling facilities run by different organisations across the district that you can use for items such as soft plastics and coffee pod recycling.

To find out more, visit [recyclenow.com](http://recyclenow.com)

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## Bulky Waste Collections

Don't drive? No problem. Our bulky waste collection service enables you to book a low cost collection to dispose of unwanted household items.

Visit [lancaster.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://lancaster.gov.uk/bulkywaste) or call 01524 582491 to book a collection or find out more.

Don't forget that you can also donate to charity shops and sell or give away for free using online marketplaces.



# FLY-TIPPING

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste on land not licensed to receive it.

It can range from a black bag of household rubbish to multiple lorry loads of building waste.

If you (or your waste carrier) are caught fly-tipping, you can be issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice.

Protect yourself from legal action and keep the district clean and tidy by following these three steps before paying someone to take away your waste:

- 1 Ask for a waste carrier registration number
- 2 Check it on the Environment Agency's online public register or call 0300 065 3000
- 3 Check you'll get a receipt



**To report fly-tipping, download the  
Love Clean Streets app**



Over the past year, Lancaster City Council cleared up 3,394 fly-tipping incidents — costing local taxpayers approximately £276,927.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What do I do if my collection has been missed?**

Sometimes we cannot make a collection due to a vehicle breakdown, blocked roads or severe weather. Don't worry, we will return to your property as soon as possible.

If by 6pm we have not collected your waste, **you should report it as missed** and we will aim to return for a collection as soon as possible.

Please leave your container out until we collect it.

## **Can I get help moving my bins to the collection point?**

Our assisted bin collection service is designed to support residents who are unable to move their waste or recycling to the kerbside.

To be eligible, there must not be a family member, carer or anyone living at your property who can perform this task for you.

The application process is very straight forward.

The quickest way to complete either of these activities is by visiting [lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste](https://lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste) or you can call 01524 582491.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What should I do if my bin is always too full?**

If you have a very large household of permanent residents, a medical condition that generates excess waste, or children in nappies, you may qualify for an additional grey bin.

To assess whether you are eligible for this service, our waste officers will need to visit you at your property and complete a waste audit.

A service charge may apply to cover delivery.

For additional recycling bins, a service charge applies.

## **How do I order repairs or replacements?**

It's easy to order a repair or replacement online but you can also call customer services.

We do not charge a service fee for replacement lids or damaged containers.

The quickest way to complete either of these activities is by visiting [lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste](https://lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste) or you can call 01524 582491.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What happens to my recycling once it is collected?

1. Once our collection vehicle is full, the recycling is delivered to a transfer station at Middleton.
2. Here, recycling is tipped and loaded into larger vehicles, to be taken to a recycling and processing plant.
3. The recycling is sorted and then sent to different recycling companies to be transformed into new products and used again.

## How can I create less waste?

We can all create less waste by simply recognising the value in our “rubbish” and making changes to what we purchase.

**Reduce** - Try to buy less things in the first place and consider buying products with little or no packaging. Could you use a refillable coffee cup?

**Reuse** - Can you or someone else use an item or part of it again rather than it be thrown away or recycled?

**Recycle** - Let your “trash” be transformed into something new by recycling.

Thank you for helping us recycle your household waste for a more sustainable district.

For further information, visit our website:  
**[lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste](https://lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste)**



Scan me

For anything else, email the waste team  
directly at [recycling@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@lancaster.gov.uk) or  
call customer services on 01524 582491

To keep up-to-date with our latest news,  
sign up for our monthly Residents' Newsletter:  
**[www.lancaster.gov.uk/newsletter](https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/newsletter)**

