

# Recycling in Medway

# Changes to recycling

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Dear resident,

Over the past few years Medway has certainly embraced the recycling lifestyle, with more than three quarters of its residents regularly recycling. Thank you.

In response to your significant efforts, we are making some simple changes to your services so you can recycle even more – including collecting food waste and household plastic packaging.

This means that more natural resources can be removed from our rubbish, therefore less goes to waste.

This booklet will help answer your questions about the changes and show how easy it is to take part. It also offers help and advice about other ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

So, please continue to make Medway a clean, green and safe place to live.



**Cllr Phil Filmer**  
Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services

☎ 01634 333333  
[www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow](http://www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow)



# Your kerbside recycling service

From 8 November, 2010 we are able to collect **mixed household plastic packaging**. To help us to do this, we are asking you to **separate your paper and card from the other materials**. Your collection dates and the black bag rubbish collections will not change.

Now you have received your new blue and white reusable bags, please split your recycling as explained here

## ■ Every household will have received:

- one blue reusable bag for paper and cardboard;
- one white reusable bag for all other household containers that can be recycled. This includes: Clean metal foil, metal food and drink cans, glass bottles and jars and household plastic packaging.

Every household will also receive a pack of 13 clear plastic bags every 13 weeks, to provide additional capacity for your mixed recycling. Please **DO NOT** use the clear plastic bags for paper and card. If you still have a blue box, please use this for excess paper and card.



## What will I be able to recycle in my

### Blue bags and blue boxes



Newspapers/  
magazines



Telephone  
directories



Envelopes, junk  
mail and paper

### White reusable bags and clear p



Glass bottles  
and jars



Metal food and  
drinks cans



Clean foil



**NEW**  
Household  
plastic  
packaging

## ■ How do I recycle?

Kerbside recycling is really easy. Please put paper and card into the blue reusable bags/blue box. Put all other containers into the white reusable bags or clear plastic bags. Please put your recycling bags out by 7am on your recycling collection day or the night before, placing it at the boundary of your property, where it meets the public highway. The bags are weighted to stop them blowing away and are reusable so will be returned to where you left them by the recycling crew.

# Recycling is changing

Why new bags?

## - Paper and card only



Flattened cardboard, cereal and egg boxes



## Plastic bags

## - Mixed containers



Empty aerosols



### Old blue bags

If you have any blue plastic bags left over from previous deliveries, please use these for recycling mixed containers.

### ■ Why do I need to separate my recycling for it to be collected by one vehicle?

The new recycling fleet have a split body, with one side for paper and card, and the other for mixed containers.

### ■ I recycle a lot, can I get extra reusable bags or clear plastic bags?

Yes, these will be available from December at council contact points and libraries. You can also use carrier bags/boxes for additional materials.

### ■ I live in a block of flats, can I recycle more too?

Yes. Your recycling will be changing. Please continue to recycle using your existing containers.

Over the next six months new containers and further information will be delivered to each block of flats.

Please bear with us while we make these changes.

If your flats don't have large recycling containers in your bin store area contact us on **01634 333333** for further information on how you can recycle.

### ■ Why is this happening?

If paper and cardboard is kept separate, we can take all household plastic packaging. By separating paper and cardboard, the quality of material is improved, meaning it can be recycled into a much wider range of products. This reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill and gases that are harmful to the environment.

### ■ What happens to non-recyclable plastics?

Globally, the plastics market is still developing.

Working with our waste contractor Veolia, and other locally based industries, new outlets for a wider range of plastics are developing, but some plastics will go for energy recovery until these markets are developed.

### ■ Can I recycle shredded paper?

Yes, but this must be contained to avoid creating litter. Place shredded paper in old envelopes, paper bags or cardboard boxes.

Alternatively, put this in your compost bin or brown wheelie bin.

Reduce the amount you shred by tearing off sensitive data and just shred this.

### Top tip:

Mark your house number on your reusable bags to show which are yours.

### ■ My bag is lost or stolen, what should I do?

Phone 01634 333333 for a replacement bag.

### ■ Can I recycle batteries?

Not in your blue or white reusable bags. However, Medway Council now provides facilities for recycling batteries at all its libraries and at its three household waste recycling sites.

### ■ Can I recycle Tetra Paks/cartons?

Not in your blue or white reusable bags, although there are five recycling points across Medway that allow you to recycle them, (see page seven for detail).

### ■ Can I recycle polystyrene?

No, the market for this type of material is not strong enough, so we are unable to collect it. This should be placed into your black rubbish bag.

# Your new, improved garden w

We have made some changes to the way your garden waste is processed so that you can recycle more.

**We can now collect food** (either cooked or uncooked) as well as garden waste from all properties with a brown wheelie bin.

This service has been introduced in response to feedback from residents who want to recycle their food waste. You don't have to take part, however it's good environmentally and economically to do so. You can choose to continue using the black sack service for your food waste.

■ **If you are using brown sacks, these can only be used for garden waste.**

Due to licensing restrictions, we are only able to collect food waste from sealed containers, for example, wheelie bins. This means that at this time, we cannot extend the food waste collection service to brown sack users.

However, we are rolling out several thousand more garden wheelie bins to suitable properties. In 2011, for those properties not suitable for wheeled bins, we will be running trial collections using smaller food/garden containers. If your brown wheelie bin is lost or stolen, please phone us on **01634 333333**.



## What can I recycle in my brown

### Garden waste

– brown wheelie bins and brown sacks



Dead plants



Garden prunings  
& weeds



Small branches  
(no more than 5cm across)



Grass & hedge  
clippings



Christmas trees

■ **When did the change happen?**

From **Monday, 4 October**. Your collection days have not changed.

■ **How do I recycle my food waste?**

Simply place it in your brown wheelie bin.

To make it easier for you to separate out your food waste, kitchen caddies are available from local shops or use an old margarine or ice cream tub to transfer your scraps to your brown wheelie bin. Please empty the food waste into your wheelie bin but do not put the tub inside. You can download a label for your kitchen caddy at

[www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow](http://www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow).

### Top tip:

Wrap your food waste in paper or use biodegradable liners to keep your bin clean and avoid flies.



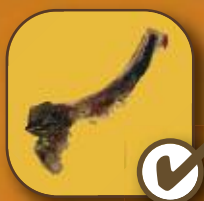
# Food waste collection service

From  
4 October  
2010

bin?

## Food waste – **NEW**

– brown wheelie bins only



**Meat**

(With or without bones)



**Fish**

(With or without bones)



**Plate scrapings  
and any leftovers**



**Egg shells**



**Fruit/vegetable  
peelings & cores**



**Tea bags/coffee  
groundings**

### ■ Why recycle food?

Your actions will help to cut down the amount of food waste that ends up in landfill sites. Rotting food in landfill generates methane - a greenhouse gas that is around 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

### ■ Can I use compostable liners sold in supermarkets?

Yes, as long as it has the seedling logo, has the BS EN13432 number or says home compostable.



### ■ Can I use plastic bags to wrap my food waste in?

**No**, these are not compostable and will not rot in the composting process.

### ■ Why are organics bad to landfill?

Organic material that rots in landfill produces carbon dioxide, ammonia and methane.

### ■ How much food waste is thrown away on average each year?

Households in the UK throw away 8.3 million tonnes of food every year. Wasting food costs the average family with children £680 a year. To find out more about saving money and food, visit [www.medway.gov.uk/lfhw](http://www.medway.gov.uk/lfhw).

### ■ How do I avoid maggots and flies?

Maggots come from flies that lay eggs. If you securely wrap your food waste in compostable liners or newspaper, flies can't lay the eggs that produce maggots. Regularly rinsing out your bin will also help reduce this.

### ■ What happens to your food waste?

Your garden and food waste is taken to specialist processors Countrystyle Recycling, near Sittingbourne, where it is recycled into compost. All of it stays in the UK and the majority is used in Kent for agriculture as a peat free nutrient rich fertiliser to enhance crop growth. It is also used under fruit trees to reduce weeds and retain moisture, again adding nutrient to the soil. It works by using naturally occurring micro organisms, totally free from artificial heat and additives. For more information, please visit [www.countrystylegroup.co.uk](http://www.countrystylegroup.co.uk)



## Ever thought of composting?

**The best thing to do is compost.** Discount compost bins and other accessories, such as food waste caddies and liners can be bought from [www.medway.getcomposting.com](http://www.medway.getcomposting.com) or by phoning **08445 714444**.



# Household waste and recycling centres

You can recycle more by taking unwanted items to one of Medway's three household waste and recycling centres.

As well as accepting electrical equipment (including freezers, fridges, televisions and computer monitors), the sites also recycle household batteries and fluorescent or low energy light bulbs.

Medway's three household waste sites, which are now managed by contractor WRG, will be introducing various improvements to site layouts and equipment over the coming months. As improvements take place, we will keep you up-to-date about what this means for you – to help you recycle more.

Check out the full list below to see what you can recycle at the centres.



## What can be recycled or disposed of?

### What you can take for recycling at the three sites:

- |                        |  |   |
|------------------------|--|---|
| glass bottles and jars | car batteries  | wood  |
| garden waste           | Engine oil   | hardcore and soil   |
| shoes                  | plastic bottles/carrier bags   | plasterboard (Cuxton and Capstone only)                               |
| textiles               | electrical or electronic equipment (including freezers, TVs, toasters and kettles) | household and garden chemicals (Cuxton only, ask staff on site first) |
| cans                   | fluorescent light tubes/energy saving light bulbs                                  | gas bottles   |
| metal                  | household batteries  | cooking oil   |
| paper and cardboard    |  |   |
| tyres (Capstone only)  |  |   |

### What you can take for disposal at the three sites:

- |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| household waste | asbestos |
|-----------------|----------|

**Warning - Asbestos should be handled with care.**  
 For more details, visit our website or phone **01634 333333**.

## Where and when to go

■ **Ambley Road, off Hoath Way, Gillingham ME8 0QH**

■ **Shawstead Road, Capstone, Chatham ME7 3JL**

■ **Sundridge Hill, Cuxton ME2 1LF**

You can find a map of where these sites are at [www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow](http://www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow)

### Opening hours:

**Monday to Saturday**, 8am to 4.30pm

**Sundays and bank holidays**, 9am to 4pm

**Mondays between April and September**, Capstone and Cuxton sites will be open until 6.30pm

**Please note** that there is restricted access to the sites for vehicles taller than two metres. Transit-type, panel vans and open-back, pick-up type vehicles are not allowed into any of the sites as these are considered to be commercial vehicles. Small, privately-owned vans (Escort-sized or smaller) are able to access the Capstone site by special arrangement. Please phone 01634 333333. Bookings can only be made for Wednesdays or Saturdays.

# Recycling points

There are 56 recycling points across Medway. All have glass bottle and jar facilities and most have paper and cardboard. To help you recycle more we offer a varied range of recycling banks including:



mixed paper & card



books



food tins & drink cans



mixed textiles & clothes



shoes



mixed glass bottles & jars



small appliances



cartons

To find your nearest recycling point, please visit [www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow](http://www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow)



## Cartons and Tetra Paks

First invented in 1951, their complex and durable design makes them more difficult to recycle than other simpler materials. This is because they contain a mixture of paper, plastic and foil. These are not collected in the kerbside service, but you can recycle them at the following recycling points:

- Behind Strood Leisure Centre, Humber Crescent, Strood;
- Hoo Village Hall, Pottery Road, Hoo;
- Union Street, car park, Rochester;
- Balmoral Gardens, Gillingham;
- Parkwood Green, car park, Rainham.



## Battery recycling in Medway libraries

In the UK currently, only about three to five per cent of all household batteries are recycled. Most old batteries end up in landfill, where they can leak harmful chemicals into the soil. You can help tackle this problem by recycling your household batteries at any of the 16 libraries across Medway, as well as many shops and all three household waste sites.



## WEEE: Recycle your old electricals

WEEE (Waste electrical and electronic equipment) can be anything electrical that is no longer wanted. If you have small WEEE, you can use one of four mini banks placed around Medway. This is for things like, hairdryers, DIY equipment, chargers, toasters, and anything that will fit into an opening of 300mm x 240mm. Look out for the bright pink small WEEE banks located at

- Kestrel Road shops car park, Lordswood;
  - Parkwood Green shops car park, Rainham;
  - Union Street car park, Rochester;
  - Hoo Village shops car park, Stoke Road, Hoo.
- If you have large WEEE, it must be taken to one of the three household waste sites (see page six). Or you can use the bulky waste collection service – (see page eight).



# Getting rid of large or bulky items



Dumping unwanted household goods makes Medway untidy and is illegal. Instead, you could find them a new home by donating for furniture reuse or by advertising with the following internet-based reuse and recycling schemes. Goods are given away for nothing, but the new owner collects.

If a large or bulky item is beyond reuse, Medway Council can collect it from your home and dispose of it.

- **Neighbourhood Furniture Store** (01795 478550). A local charity looking for good quality furniture for reuse for vulnerable people or those on low income.
- **Frengle** ([www.ilovefrengle.org](http://www.ilovefrengle.org)). There are local groups in Medway, set up and managed by residents.
- **Reuze** ([www.reuze.co.uk](http://www.reuze.co.uk)).
- **VSkips** ([www.vskips.co.uk](http://www.vskips.co.uk)).

- We will collect up to three items per collection.
- Items must be left at the boundary of your property by **7am** on the booked collection day.
- The **first collection** booked in any six-month period is **free** but each additional booking (of up to three items) costs **£15.50** per booking.
- An **express service** is available for collection within 48 hours at a cost of **£25.75**.
- Collections must be booked well in advance by phoning **01634 333333** or booking online:

**NEW** Book your bulky waste collection online at [www.medway.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.medway.gov.uk/bulkywaste)

## Large or bulky items we will collect

- |  |                           |                             |                                  |                               |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ Armchair                                   | ■ Chest of drawers        | ■ Gas fire                  | ■ Settee                         | ■ Underlay                    |
| ■ Barbecue                                   | ■ Computer                | ■ Hi-fi system              | ■ Sewing machine                 | ■ Vacuum cleaner              |
| ■ Bath (not cast iron)                       | ■ Cooker                  | ■ Internal door (not glass) | ■ Shower tray                    | ■ Wall unit                   |
| ■ Bed  | ■ Cupboard                | ■ Ironing board             | ■ Sideboard                      | ■ Wardrobe (not mirrored)     |
| ■ Bicycle                                    | ■ Desk                    | ■ Lawn mower                | ■ Sink                           | ■ Washing machine             |
| ■ Bidet                                      | ■ Dishwasher              | ■ Mattress                  | ■ Strimmer                       | ■ WC                          |
| ■ Cabinet                                    | ■ Electric fire           | ■ Microwave                 | ■ Table (not glass)              | ■ Wheelbarrow                 |
| ■ Carpet                                     | ■ Extractor fan (kitchen) | ■ Small musical instruments | ■ Television                     | ■ Worktop (up to 6ft) (1.83m) |
| ■ Central heating radiator                   | ■ Fridge or freezer       | ■ Ottoman                   | ■ Dismantled plastic/garden toys |                               |
| ■ Chairs - dining room or garden (two items) | ■ Garden gate             | ■ Pram                      | ■ Tumble dryer                   |                               |
|  | ■ Garden table            |                             |                                  |                               |

## Who to contact



**Customer First: 01634 333333** 8am to 8pm (Mon-Fri) 9am to 1pm (Sat)  
Calls may be recorded or monitored for security and staff development purposes.



**Customer First, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR**



Email: [customer.first@medway.gov.uk](mailto:customer.first@medway.gov.uk)

Web: [www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow](http://www.medway.gov.uk/recyclenow)



Minicom: **01634 333111**

This information can be made available in other formats by phoning **01634 333333**

If you have any questions about this supplement and you want to speak to someone in your own language please ring **01634 335577**

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中文 331781	हिन्दी 331783	Polski 332373	අලුත් 331786	فارسی 331840	Lietuviškai 332372