

## Dartford Borough Council

### WASTE COLLECTION & RECYCLING ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS

#### GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPERS

#### (inc. Building Regulation H6 – Solid Waste Storage)

##### **1.0 Introduction:**

1.1 This guidance note deals specifically with the construction and operational requirements to provide an effective household refuse collection and recycling service to residents, once the development is occupied. It does not cover commercial or construction waste. It should be read in conjunction with the appropriate Planning Guidance or Building Regulations that deal with sustainable waste management. Compliance with these guidelines does not absolve developers from any responsibilities they may have to produce Construction Waste Plans, Waste Management Action Plans or other documents required under the relevant legislation.

1.2 Dartford Borough Council, through its contractor Amey, provides weekly collection of domestic refuse and fortnightly collection of recyclables. Residents of houses use a green 180 litre wheeled bin for general refuse, a grey 240 litre wheeled bin for mixed dry recyclables and a black 55 litre box for glass. Mixed dry recyclables comprise paper, cardboard, cans and plastic bottles.

1.3 Residents of flats are provided with reusable collection bags for dry recycling and glass bottles. These are emptied by the residents at communal bin stores containing separate 660 litre or 1100 litre bins for refuse and mixed dry recyclables respectively, and communal 240 litre bins for glass.

1.4 Developers should provide storage facilities for separate refuse and recycling containers at all new properties, whether houses or flats. The Council requires developers to provide wheeled bins for refuse and dry recyclables containment, as these are generally considered the safest, most hygienic and most convenient form of collection.

1.5 Any departure from this policy should be agreed specifically with the Waste & Recycling, Planning and Building Control sections of the Council.

1.6 Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives the Council the power to specify the kind and number of receptacles that shall be used for refuse and recyclables storage and collection. It also allows the Council to require that these receptacles are provided by the occupier of the premises at their own expense. Developers must also comply with the provisions of section H6 of the Building Regulations, and accompanying guidance, much of which is included below.

1.7 The Council requires all necessary bins or other containers on new developments to be provided at the developer's expense. They can be supplied by arrangement with the Waste and Parks team of the Council - prices are available on request. This would include wheeled bins of varying sizes for refuse or dry recyclables, recycling boxes for glass collections and reusable bags for flat dwellers.

1.8 When requesting the Council to obtain the bins, at least four weeks notice should be given to allow for delivery from the bin manufacturers. If developers wish to provide the bins direct, they should request a copy of the Council's bin specification, and ensure the bins they supply comply with this.

1.9 Any enquiries on this guidance note should in the first instance be referred to the Customer Services team of the Council at the Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR as follows:

Telephone: 01322 343290

Email: [customer.services@dartford.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@dartford.gov.uk)

## **2.0 Standard bin dimensions:**

<b>Size (litres)</b>	<b>H (mm)</b>	<b>W (mm)</b>	<b>D (mm)</b>	<b>Capacity (sacks)</b>
120	950	500	560	1-2
240	1100	600	750	2-3
360	1100	660	900	4-5
660	1300	1250	800	7-8
1100	1500	1400	1100	12-13

## **3.0 Houses:**

3.1 In general each individual house should have its own wheeled bins within the curtilage of the property, as residents tend to take more responsibility for their own bin, and are more likely to participate in recycling. A bin cupboard should be provided within the property boundary to prevent the bins becoming an unsightly feature of the street scene. This can be located at any suitable position, provided the distance for the resident to wheel bins to the collection point on the day of collection, does not exceed 30 metres ((Building Regulation H6, paragraph 1.8).

3.2 In houses, an area of at least 1.2m by 1.2m should be provided (Building Regulation H6, paragraph 1.3), which would be adequate for two 240 litre bins and a box, for both refuse and recyclable storage. Approximate dimensions of common sizes of bin are given in section 2.0 above. Adequate clearance should be allowed so that the lid can fully open - the open lid height will be equivalent to the depth of the bin.

3.3 The Council's policy is to collect general refuse bins weekly and recycling bins fortnightly from the front curtilage of each house (i.e. just inside the front gate or equivalent position on open plan frontages) or direct from bin stores for flats. The collection of bins will be on the same day, but not necessarily at the same time, since separate vehicles are utilized for refuse and recyclables. The distance between the collection points and the nearest road, where a refuse vehicle can gain access, should be no more than 25 metres (Building Regulation H6, paragraph 1.8), preferably less.

## **4.0 Flats & communal bin stores:**

4.1 Where the estate layout precludes separate bin storage at each property, or in the case of flats, it is recognized that communal bin stores may need to be considered. (On certain existing sites it is a condition of the property deeds that on the day of collection, refuse is to be left by residents at designated uncontained locations. This arrangement causes concern to residents near to the designated points, and is no longer acceptable).

4.2 For properties where communal bin stores are to be provided, these should be designed to accommodate larger communal bins such as 1100 litre or 660 litre size, for refuse and dry recyclables. 240 litre bins are sufficient for the collection of glass bottles. The colour and marking of these shall be to the Council's specification.

4.3 In general one 1100 litre bin for general waste will serve 5 or 6 flats. Communal bin stores should have sufficient space to also accommodate separate bins for the storage of recyclables. Refuse and recycling bins should be provided in the ratio of 2:1:1 (i.e. two bins for refuse, one bin for dry recyclables, and one bin for glass).

4.4 Bin stores should be designed so as to screen the bins but to give adequate ventilation to prevent odours. They should give easy access for residents carrying refuse and recyclables - if larger bins are provided the top could be up to 1.5 metres above ground and steps or ramp may be needed. Adequate space should also be provided for bin lids to open, and signing should be affixed at appropriate positions inside the store to indicate the correct use of each bin (refuse, recyclables, glass). There should be adequate circulation space so that if some bins are full, residents can easily reach other empty bins. Communal bin stores should be located so that the distance for the resident to carry waste or recycling to the collection point does not exceed 30 metres (Building Regulation H6, paragraph 1.8).

4.5 Bin stores should also be straightforward for residents and the refuse collectors to use. Door positions and widths should enable bins to be taken from the store to the refuse collection vehicle by a direct paved route not exceeding 25 metres over level ground. (Building Regulation H6, paragraph 1.8). Dropped kerbs and ramps should be provided on the bin route rather than full height kerbs or steps. If the bin store opens on to a car park or service area, yellow hatching and/or bollards should be provided to prevent obstruction by vehicles.

4.6 It must be recognized that bin stores must be quite substantial to resist vandalism and wear and tear. Bin stores may require screening and softening by means of appropriately located planting. The style, siting and materials used should be provided in the construction of communal bin stores should be in keeping with, and reflect the character of the residential development. The construction must be of adequate strength and durability to withstand frequent use by residents as well as the collection crews – doors and hinges are often particularly vulnerable to damage.

## **5.0 Collection vehicles:**

5.1 Our collection contractor, Amey, uses standard Dennis Eagle 3 axle refuse collection vehicles. The largest of these are 10.6m long, 3.6m tall and 2.6m wide. The greatest turning radius is 8.5m. Adequate turning and manoeuvring space should be provided on all estate roads and service areas to ensure adequate access to collection points. Notwithstanding any specific highways requirements, such roads or service areas should be constructed to withstand refuse collection vehicles of 32 tonnes Gross Vehicle Weight.

## **6.0 Garden waste:**

6.1 The Council operates an opt-in charged collection service for garden waste and about 6,000 residents across the borough currently participate. Consideration should be given to this in the design of bin stores if space permits. As a minimum householders should be encouraged to compost at home and the provision of purpose built timber enclosures, or moulded plastic composting units, should be included as part of the development where gardens are of sufficient size.

**Revised January 2016**