

Changes to Garden Waste bin contents FAQ's

What date should I stop putting food waste into my garden waste bin?

Food waste will not be accepted in your garden waste bin from the 1st of September.

Please see the tables below to find out when you should stop putting food waste into your garden waste bin:

You can find out what collection day calendar you are by visiting our website

<http://apps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/pages/bins/collectiondays.aspx>

Any waste which will not be accepted from the 1st of September placed into your garden waste bin after your collection date in August (please see below) will result in your bin being contaminated.

If your bin is classed as contaminated our partners Norse will not empty the contents of the bin and you will be asked to dispose of the waste yourself.

Norse will not return to recollect a contaminated bin and will continue not to empty the bin until the contaminated waste has been removed.

Calendar 1 collections

| Collection date on/after 01/09/2021 | Last collection day for food waste |
|--|---|
| Wednesday 01/09/2021 | Wednesday 18/08/2021 |
| Thursday 02/09/2021 | Thursday 19/08/2021 |
| Friday 03/09/2021 | Friday 20/08/2021 |
| Monday 13/09/2021 | Monday 30/08/2021 |
| Tuesday 14/09/2021 | Tuesday 31/08/2021 |

Calendar 2 collections

| Collection date on/after 01/09/2021 | Last collection day for food waste |
|--|---|
| Monday 06/09/2021 | Monday 23/08/2021 |
| Tuesday 07/09/2021 | Tuesday 24/08/2021 |
| Wednesday 08/09/2021 | Wednesday 25/08/2021 |
| Thursday 09/09/2021 | Thursday 26/08/2021 |
| Friday 10/09/2021 | Friday 27/08/2021 |

When will these changes take place?

You will no longer be able to put food waste into your garden waste bin from September the 1st 2021. Other items which will no longer be collected through the garden waste service include paper (clean or soiled), cardboard, sawdust and untreated wood chippings.

To find out what can go into your garden waste bin from the 1st of September please see below:

What you **CAN put in your garden waste bin:**

- Grass, leaves and weeds
- Flowers and plants
- Hedge clippings
- Branches (less than 6cm thick)
- Pruning's and twigs
- Windfall fruits
- Hay/straw (bedding from non-meat eating animals such as rabbits)
- Vegetable waste from the garden, such as uncooked seeds and skin (no cooked food waste)

What should I do with my food waste now?

You can put your food waste into your general waste bin. Your food waste will then be sent to the Suffolk 'Energy from Waste' plant in Great Blakenham from 1st of September, where it will be turned into electricity for local communities.

Some household waste can be home composted these include: Tea bags, Vegetable peelings, Salad leaves, Fruit scraps, Coffee grounds, Filter paper, Crushed eggshells, Egg and cereal boxes, Corrugated cardboard, scrunched up newspaper, Toilet and kitchen roll inner tubes, straw, and hay.

To find all the offers on compost bins and more you can:

- Visit <https://getcomposting.com/en-gb/profile/login> and enter your postcode
- Call 0844 571 4444 and quote SUF 19L

Why can't I put food waste in my garden waste bin?

Processing food and garden waste together is a resource expensive process. This change will reduce the use of resources, carbon footprint and focus on reducing food waste. This will not only cut down on the high cost of processing the fractionally small amount of food waste, but it will also align your area with the rest of the district where food waste is already being collected via the general waste bin.

Does East Suffolk Council offer a food waste collection service?

East Suffolk Council does not currently offer a separate food waste collection service.

We are currently working with a Government department – the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as are all other local authorities, businesses and interested parties to review waste collections across the country under the Resources and Waste Strategy (RAWS).

This strategy sets out how we will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency, and moving towards a circular economy in England.

For more information, please see the Government website

[Resources and waste strategy for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/strategies/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england)

How is stopping food waste collections helping the environment?

As a council, we are committed to building environmentally sustainable communities, and disposing of waste in an efficient and correct manner is an important step towards achieving this as we continue to address climate concerns.

From the 1st of September your food waste will be sent to the Suffolk 'Energy from Waste' plant in Great Blakenham, where it will be turned into electricity for local communities.

We also encourage all residents to think proactively about reducing the amount of food waste they generate. The best way to reduce food waste is to buy less to avoid throwing out 'gone off' food and to home compost appropriate foods, such as fruit and vegetable peelings, wherever possible.

For more information on what you can do to help reduce your food waste, please visit the Food Savvy Suffolk website at www.foodsavvy.org.uk/

For more information on how to get started with home composting, please visit our website at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/home-composting

What happens if there is food waste in my garden waste bin from September?

If there is food waste in your garden waste bin from September, the bin will be classed as contaminated. This means our partners Norse will not empty the contents of the bin and you will be asked to dispose of the waste yourself. Norse will not return to recollect a contaminated bin and will continue not to empty the bin until the contaminated waste has been removed.

What can go into my garden waste bin?

Please see below to find out what can and can't go into your garden waste bin from the 1st of September.

What you CAN put in your garden waste bin:

- Grass, leaves and weeds
- Flowers and plants
- Hedge clippings
- Branches (less than 6cm thick)
- Pruning's and twigs
- Windfall fruits
- Hay/straw (bedding from non-meat eating animals such as rabbits)
- Vegetable waste from the garden, such as uncooked seeds and skin (no cooked food waste)

What you CAN'T put in your garden waste bin:

- Cardboard egg boxes
- Soiled paper, such as kitchen towel, takeaway pizza boxes and cardboard boxes used to collect kitchen food waste
- Clean paper and card
- Sawdust
- Untreated wood chippings
- Food or kitchen waste, such as cooked vegetables, dairy, meat or fish
- Soil
- Cat or dog faeces
- Vacuum dust or fire cinders
- Oil, stones or rubble
- Wood that has been treated or painted
- Plastic flower pots, trays or bags
- Shredded paper
- Invasive weeds, such as Common Ragwort or Japanese knotweed

How has this change been communicated to East Suffolk Council residents?

Over 33,000 letters have been sent out to collection addresses with a valid subscription in the old Suffolk Coastal side of the district informing of the upcoming change.

We have also sent letters to subscribers who live outside the district but have a valid subscription at a collection address in the old Suffolk Coastal side of the district.

Every subscriber and collection address with a valid subscription should receive a letter.

Am I entitled to additional general waste collections?

Garden Waste collections are a discretionary service and are not funded from council tax unlike your other bins (recycling and general waste) which are a statutory service to collect and empty. As the garden waste service is separate to the waste collections funded from council tax you will not be entitled to more general waste collections.

What should I do with my paper waste now?

Many items which will not be accepted through your garden waste collection can be recycled i.e. clean paper and cardboard.

To find out what can go into your recycling bin please see the recycling leaflet on our website

[https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/uploads/guide_to_recycling_2020_\(with_translation_box\).pdf](https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/uploads/guide_to_recycling_2020_(with_translation_box).pdf)

To find out more about recycling in Suffolk please visit the Suffolk Recycling website

<https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/>

If you find you are running out of room in your recycling bin, you can purchase a second recycling bin for a one-off charge of £34.50. This additional recycling bin will be emptied alongside your original recycling bin fortnightly.

If you would like to purchase an additional recycling bin please contact our customer services team on 0333 016 2000 and select option 0.