

How can I help with green bin recycling?



The materials which can be placed in your green bin for recycling are:

- Glass bottles and glass jars, including make-up jars and perfume bottles
- Paper, card and cartons
- Steel food/pet food cans, biscuit tins, sweet tins, metal lids
- Aluminium cans and empty aerosols
- Plastic bottles, pots, punnets, trays and tubs (no black plastic)

Did you know?

Items need to be clean, dry and loose. Just give it a decent rinse and let it dry. Product residue and liquid can spoil other items in the green bin such as paper.

Please do not place items in a bag including bin bags, as these will be rejected due to Health and Safety reasons as colleagues can't see what's inside them.

Please shut your wheelie bin lid.

Look at our material factsheets for more information on what materials you can recycle.

If in doubt, leave it out – email us and ask!

EnviroSort

Domestic green bin recycling across Herefordshire and Worcestershire

enquiries@severnwaste.co.uk

Green bin contamination



EnviroSort process over 80,000 tonnes of green bin recycling every year.

This works out at over 300 tonnes every day.

Of this 300 tonnes, on average 36 tonnes a day/13% is **contamination**.

These rejects are sent to our **Energy from Waste Plant** or **landfill**.

Contamination is an item placed into the green bin that cannot be recycled through the green bin collection.

This includes **non-recyclable** items such as nappies, food waste and wood. It also includes **non-target** items such as soft plastic which although not recyclable from a green bin, can be recycled from a supermarket soft plastic collection.

The process is mainly automated. Our series of materials fact sheets give further information on how the process works and how each different material type is separated out from the commingled/mixed collection.

LET'S WASTE LESS

Herefordshire
Council

worcestershire
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waste services

What are the main contaminants we receive in kerbside collection?



Nappies and sanitary products *

These cannot be recycled from green bin collections as they are contaminated by organic matter and will spoil other items in the green bin. They cannot be recycled even if clean, as they are still contaminated by other components such as the absorbent gel padding, and the paper isn't paper but plastic fabric.

Whilst some companies have started to recycle nappies, this is still a specialised process and these companies only deal with this type of product. Around eight million disposable nappies are used every day in the U.K. That's three billion every year. For information on reusable nappies please see:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lets-waste-less/reuse-and-repair/reusable-nappies>

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Clothing, shoes, textiles *

Besides causing blockages in the machinery, clothing is easily dirtied and will not be accepted by the textile recyclers. It also carries contamination such as glass shards or food along the conveyor belts, spreading it across other items which could be recycled. This could result in these other items being rejected.

EnviroSort receives over 200 items of clothing a week. Clothing and textiles if clean and dry can be donated to a charity shop or taken to the clothing bank at your Household Recycling Centre.

Wood *

Wood in any form, cannot be recycled from your green bin collection despite it being the source material of paper. Paper is a completely different product having been processed from wood. For comparison, bread is a different product to wheat, despite being processed from wheat flour.



Food waste *

A significant percentage of the daily contamination is food waste. Food waste will easily contaminate the surrounding items and result in this all being rejected.

Leftover food, if inedible must be placed in your black bin. It cannot be placed in a home compost bin. It cannot be placed in a garden waste collection locally due to legislation as our composting process is outside and not in an industrial setting.

Fruit and vegetable peelings can be placed in a home compost bin. They cannot be placed in a garden waste collection due to legislation – see above.

For more information, see our GreenGrow Factsheet.

The average household throws away the equivalent of eight meals a week. For information on preventing food waste please see: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lets-waste-less/foodsavvy>



Garden Waste *

Garden Waste cannot be recycled from a green bin collection. This needs to be placed in a home compost bin or taken to a Household Recycling Centre and placed in the green waste container or in a brown bin garden waste collection. If branches are over 6 inches/15 cm in diameter, they need to be placed in the wood container.

Garden waste will contaminate the surrounding recycling and result in this all being rejected. Some garden waste such as twigs and small branches will also cause blockages and jam the machinery.

Batteries

Batteries cannot be included in either a black bin or a green bin as they have the potential to cause fires. These can be recycled at a HRC or a retail battery collection point.

*** All items unsuitable for the green bin which cannot be reused or recycled must be placed in your black bin.**

