

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPERS

1. Dartford Borough Council, through their contractor EnterpriseMRS, offer a weekly domestic refuse collection service. Existing residents have the option of receiving a wheeled bin or plastic sack collection. We would however encourage all developers to provide facilities for wheeled at all new properties since this is generally considered the safest, most hygienic and most convenient form of collection. Any departure from this policy would have to be agreed specifically with the Environmental Contracts Section of the council.
2. It is preferable that each property is able to have its own wheeled bin within the curtilage of the property. (Residents tend to take more responsibility for their own bin, whereas bins and their storage areas can become a general dumping point with an unkempt appearance). Ideally bins should be kept at the rear however where a rear or side access is not provided, and the bin has to be stored at the front, then a bin cupboard should be included to prevent the bins becoming an unsightly feature within the front garden space.
3. Family houses will normally require facilities for a 240 litre bin, whereas for homes specifically designed for OAPs or single persons consideration will be given to the use of 120 litre bins. Although section H4 of the building Regulations suggests a minimum provision less than this, in practice the above capacity bins have been proved, both by Local Authorities and bin manufacturers, to be the most practicable. The dimensions of common sizes of bin are given in Paragraph 4 below.
4. Table of bin dimensions (mm) - based on SULO MGB bins:

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

5. The Council's policy is to collect bins weekly from the front curtilage of each property (e.g. just inside the front gate or equivalent position on open plan frontages). The distance between this point on the property and the nearest road, where a refuse vehicle can gain access, should be no more than 25m.
6. Where the estate layout precludes this, 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 points. This arrangement causes concern to residents near to the designated points and is not encouraged.
7. For properties where communal bin stores are to be provided, these can be designed to take one bin per property or to accommodate larger communal bins such as 1100 litre or 660 litre size. In general one 1100 litre bin would serve 6-8 small flats or 4-6 larger flats or one bedroom houses. Houses with two or more bedrooms would not be expected to be on a communal bin system.

8. 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 - if larger bins are provided the top could be up to 1.5 meter's (approximately 5 ft.) above ground and steps or ramp may be needed. Adequate space should also be provided for bin lids to open.
9. Bin stores should also be straightforward for 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 metre's, and where possible over level ground. 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.
10. It must be recognized that bin stores can be quite substantial and 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 refuse collectors.
11. The collection contractors use standard 6 or 8 wheeled refuse collection vehicles. Adequate turning and maneuvering space should be provided on all estate roads or service areas leading 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.
12. Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives the Council power to specify the kind and number of receptacles that shall be used for refuse collection. It also allows the council to require that these receptacles are provided by the occupier of the premises at their own expense.
13. The Council require all necessary bins on new developments to be provided at the developers expense. They can be supplied directly by the developer, or by arrangement with the Environmental contracts section of the council at a cost of £20 (inc. VAT) per 240 litre bin. This is the 1996/97 and may be subject to change; prices for other bin sizes on request. When requesting the Council to obtain the bins, at least five 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.
14. On larger developments developers should consider provision of recycling facilities. Banks for arrange of materials including bottles, paper, card, cans and textiles can be provided and maintained by the council at no charge. The inclusion of recycling facilities within a development may reduce the refuse collection capacity required elsewhere on the development. It will also prove an asset for residents, and can give a positive "environmentally friendly" image to both the site and the development company.
15. Any enquiries on this guide note should be referred to the Council at the Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, as follows:

Refuse collection & Recycling matters:

Environmental Contracts Section}	David Thomas	- 01322 343273
	John Prance	- 01322 343085
	Fax	- 01322 343963

Planning & Design matters:

Development Control Section}	Phone	- 01322 343203
Planning & Design Division}		