Your guide to Rubbish & Recycling Services in Rother

Collections & Bring Banks

www.rother.gov.uk/recycling
recycling@rother.gov.uk
01424 787000
In the last few years, around 35,000 tonnes of household waste was collected each year across Rother. That’s almost half a tonne per year per person!
Of this, we’re currently recycling nearly 50%, best in East Sussex, but it’s estimated that much more rubbish can be recycled.
At present, too much waste gets tipped into landfill, but with the amount of waste we generate in the UK, we’re fast running out of holes to put rubbish in.
Rother District Council is committed to:
• decreasing the total waste we produce
• increasing the amount of waste we recycle
To help achieve this, we’ve introduced a system of wheeled bins and recycling containers to make it easier for us all to recycle more.

For most properties, we operate an Alternate Weekly Collection:
We collect residual waste (rubbish) from the black wheelie bins one week,
And on the following week we collect all recycling.
For detail information, visit www.rother.gov.uk/recycling, or call 01424 787000

The illustration below shows what goes into a typical Rother rubbish bin.

As you can see, by separating out the recycling, far less rubbish will be going into your black bin.
We will collect your black wheelie bin one week, then we’ll collect all your recycling the following week.

We know some of you may be worried about smells, vermin, flies and capacity but you needn’t be.
We have provided some advice in this booklet to help you manage this scheme effectively.

Please take some time to read through the information which follows.
It contains all you need to know about the scheme, how to get the best from it together with some advice and tips on better waste management.

If you’re still unsure or want further information, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.
Our contact details can be found on the back page
Reduce and Re-use
It's not just about Recycling!

Recycling is only part of the solution to the growing amount of waste we produce. There’s lots more you can do and here are just a few tips:

Reduce
Cutting down on what you use so you have less to throw away.

- Buy products with less packaging (such as loose fruit and veg rather than pre-packed. It’s cheaper and tastes better too!)
- Buy rechargeable items (it takes 50 times more energy to make a single battery than the energy it provides)
- Stop junk mail (our website will tell you how)
- Use a “bag for life” when shopping; don’t rely on carrier bags
- Use and re-use plastic containers
- Buy well-made products that will last.

Re-use
With a bit of thought, it’s possible to use many products again and again and again...

- Re-use envelopes
- Use both sides of paper or use old printed sheets for note pads.
- Donate unwanted items of clothing, furniture, toys, books, to charity shops
- Donate old magazines to doctors’ waiting rooms, schools and playgrounds, but ask first, please.
- Take your unwanted stuff to a boot fair – you may even make a bit of extra cash from your junk!

The carbon footprint of waste
The things we buy, and the way we dispose of them, have a huge impact on the environment. Our modern way of life has resulted in the burning of increased amounts of fossil fuels, creating polluting gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane which get trapped in the atmosphere and contribute to changes in climate temperatures. Climate change is happening at a rapid pace, upsetting the planet’s natural balance and threatening our habitats and wildlife.

The average household in Rother generates around a tonne of rubbish every year and although nearly half of this is recycled (which reduces its carbon impact), we could all do better!

And we could easily avoid creating some of our waste in the first place.

You can help slow the pace of climate change by dealing with your rubbish responsibly.
Getting it Right!

There are a few simple rules we need you to follow:

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME, LID DOWN
Please make sure your rubbish and recycling are:
In the **Right place** for collection - normally at the edge of your property
At the **Right time** - the collection team can arrive at any time from 7 a.m.
With the **Lid down** - materials fully inside the container.
If you have a collection problem, you must notify us within 24 hours.

BLACK WHEELIE BIN
is for the rubbish you can’t recycle.

Landfill is full up! We are all obliged to take great care with the amount of waste we throw away, and the Council operates a “NO SIDE WASTE” policy.

Our contractors will only take materials placed in the bin. Please make every effort to minimise your waste, and maximise your recycling.

**Please don’t buy things with excess packaging!**

GREEN BOX
is for all of your paper and lightweight white card

Because our paper goes to make new newspaper, our reprocessor cannot take heavy card or through-coloured paper.
Small amounts of greetings cards and wrapping paper are OK, but please avoid glitter and plastic items.

Glossy magazines are recyclable - when you tear the paper, and you see white fibres at the tear line, then recycle it!

.......and don’t forget, you can now recycle your Yellow Pages.

BLACK BOX
is for plastic bottles and metal cans.
(you may leave the plastic lids on the bottles)

The materials we collect are sent to process plants once they have been separated.
Currently, reprocessors in this area only have secure markets for plastic bottles, metal cans and steel aerosols.

We cannot collect tinfoil, food trays or any plastic film for the time being.

Please remember - the only plastic we recycle is BOTTLES.

GREEN WHEELIE BIN
is for all your green garden waste, and also flattened cardboard (this aids the composting process)

Please make sure that you avoid earth, rocks, plastic bags, plastic seed trays, flowerpots, and any food waste from the kitchen.
Cardboard should be flat & free from any food, plastic and strapping.
Tetrapak type cartons are not allowed.
When things go wrong!

We’ve tried to give you as much information as we can about what to put in what bin, but we’re all human and you may slip up from time to time - but don’t worry.

Experiences elsewhere in the UK, and the research we’ve carried out, suggest that the majority of Rother residents are happy to use the scheme.

However, the failure of a few could affect all residents:

- Putting the wrong waste in the wrong box or bin can contaminate the whole collection.
  - All the waste collected then has to go to landfill, wasting the good efforts of everybody else.
- Extra waste going to landfill (from contamination or people’s failure to use the scheme) can result in financial penalties for the Council, passed onto residents as increased Council Tax.

We don’t believe that the majority should have to pay for the actions of a few so we have a process to deal with such situations:

1. A gentle reminder: We put a sticker (see left) on the bin or box to explain what’s not right.
2. No change? We’ll see if there’s any viable reason preventing the householder using the scheme correctly.
3. If not, we’ll issue a legal notice reminding the householder of their responsibilities in using the scheme.
4. Still no change? We can then issue a Fixed Penalty Notice – an instant fine of up to £100.

The sticker advises why we have not been able to collect your waste successfully.

**Side waste not accepted : Bin overfull** - As explained elsewhere in this leaflet, we do not accept any waste not included in the bin (lid down)

**Commercial/Builders waste in bin** - DIY and building waste must not be put in the bin – you have to take this to the “tip” or arrange a separate collection with a private contractor.

**Wrong collection point** - You are required to present your containers at the edge of your property (unless you qualify for assistance).

**Bin too heavy** - This is only likely if you have put incorrect items in the bin, e.g. rubble, car parts, etc.

**Incorrect waste in bin/box – contaminated** – It is important to put the right waste in the right bin
Some types of waste cannot be recycled, and if they are included with waste that can be recycled, the whole load is contaminated.
This costs us all money and wastes the good efforts of your neighbours.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
The last thing we want to do is fine anybody and doing so is a last resort after we’ve done everything else possible to get them to use the schemes properly.
The process described is not aimed at those who make the occasional mistake – putting the wrong thing in the wrong box (we’re all human after all!) – but at those who persistently fail to use the scheme correctly and refuse our help and advice.
Recycling Plastic

Why recycle plastic?

- **It saves energy**: Recycling just one plastic drinks bottle saves enough energy to light a 60 watt light bulb for 6 hours!
- **It saves resources**: Making new plastic uses oil – a natural resource that we need to preserve.
- **It helps to save the planet**: Compared to making new plastic, recycling it significantly reduces the emissions of gases responsible for global warming.
- **It reduces the need for landfill**: It takes about 450 years for a plastic bottle to break down in the ground.

What plastics can be recycled?
Currently, our reprocessor can only recycle plastic bottles; you may leave plastic lids on.

How to recycle your plastic

A quick rinse once you’ve done the dishes will be fine. Remove the label if possible but don’t worry if you can’t. Squash it down and put into your black box.

How is plastic recycled?

The plastic is sorted into different types and colours. It’s then either shredded into flakes, which can be used to create fibres for the textile industry, or melted and moulded into new products.

What is plastic recycled into?

- Bin liners and carrier bags
- Plastic bottles
- Flooring and window frames
- Building insulation boards
- CD and DVD cases
- Fencing, water butts, garden furniture
- Fleece jackets, hats, etc.
- Sleeping bag linings
Recycling Cans
(Steel and Aluminium)

Put a can out for recycling and it could be back on the shelves within as little as 6 weeks!

Why recycle Steel and Aluminium?

- **It saves energy**: Recycling steel cans uses 75% less energy than making new steel cans. Aluminium is even more effective: the energy needed to make 1 can from raw materials will make 20 from recycled metal.
- **It saves resources**: Making new cans uses iron ore (steel) and bauxite (aluminium). Both are imported, and reducing their consumption saves money and “carbon miles”.
- **Reduce wastage**: For every tonne aluminium manufactured from raw materials, 4 tonnes of waste are produced. The amount of waste created by recycling aluminium is...zero! Making one tonne of recycled steel from cans requires half a tonne less of coal and 40% less water than is required to make cans from new steel.

What cans can be recycled?

All metal cans may be recycled, including aerosols (empty, of course!). Please be careful to avoid sharp edges wherever possible.

How are cans recycled?

**Aluminium**: The cans are shredded with any coloured coating removed. The shreds are then melted down, poured into casts and chilled. The metal is rolled out and made into new cans. It’s a quick process. It can take as little as 6 weeks before it returns as new materials.

**Steel**: The waste steel is melted down with iron ore and limestone. The molten metal is poured into moulds, cooled, then chopped into blocks ready to be used again.

What are cans recycled into?

- Aeroplanes and Helicopters
- Cars, Trucks and Trains
- Bikes and Scooters
- Fridges and Washing Machines
- Cans, cans and more cans
- Buildings, bridges
- ....... the list goes on forever!

How to recycle your cans

Wash and squash!

A quick rinse once you’ve done the dishes will be fine.
Remove the label if possible but don’t worry if you can’t.
Squash it down and put into your black box.
You can also take your cans to local Recycling Bring Banks.
Recycling Paper

Where would we be without paper? Well, you wouldn’t be reading this for a start! We get through enormous amounts of paper and with every tonne we use requiring 17 trees, recycling it makes good sense.

Why recycle Paper?

- **It saves energy**: Recycling paper uses far less energy than making new paper.
- **Reduce the need to cut down trees**: We’re producing more and more CO₂; trees absorb CO₂, so we really need to keep as many trees as we can. Every year, we need a forest the size of Wales to make the paper we use in the UK, and deforestation is the single biggest cause of global warming. Recycling 1 tonne of paper saves 17 trees!
- **Reduce pollution**: Making 1 tonne of recycled paper results in 74% less air pollution and 43% less water pollution compared to making the same amount of brand new paper. Paper is biodegradable so when it goes to landfill and rots away, it produces methane – a very potent greenhouse gas (20 times worse than carbon dioxide!).

What types of paper can be recycled?

All white fibre paper (tear the paper, and if you see white fibres at the torn edge, you can recycle it.) Please be careful to avoid coloured papers and contaminants, e.g. plastic wrappers. You can recycle all telephone directories (including Yellow Pages). Please remove plastic windows from envelopes.

How is paper recycled?

The paper is transported to a paper mill in Kent.

There, it's pulped, and goes through a series of stages to remove unwanted items (like free magazine gifts, staples, paper clips, etc.) and have the inks washed out.

The pulp is fed into the paper making machinery, and a few minutes later, emerges as bright white newsprint ready for tomorrow’s newspapers.
Recycle Green Garden Waste & Card

Garden waste can contribute as much as 30% of your typical household waste. So why not do something really useful with it?

Why recycle green garden waste?

- **Reduce pollution**: When green waste, which is organic and biodegradable, goes to landfill, it produces methane – a very potent greenhouse gas (20 times worse than carbon dioxide – which is also released during the rotting process).
- **Reduce the need for landfill**: We produce a lot of garden waste. Landfill has virtually run out. We simply must recycle that waste.
- **Protect the countryside**: Green waste is made into compost, which is used instead of peat-based products. Extracting peat is environmentally damaging as the bogs take thousands of years to form and digging them up destroys a natural and fragile habitat for plants and wildlife.
- **Compost for Sale**: You can buy the compost/soil conditioner which is made from our garden waste. It’s available at HWRS(tips)- Mountfield, Pebsham, Heathfield, Wadhurst etc.

What can I put in my green bin?

**YES ✓**
- Flowers
- Grass cuttings
- Bark
- Hedge prunings
- Twigs & Tree cuttings
  (up to 10cm dia.)
- Windfalls
- Leaves
- Plants
- Flattened cardboard

**NO ✗**
- Soil
- Compost
- Stones
- Rubble
- Plant pots
- Animal Litter
- Vac Cleaner Contents
- Plastics
- Metal
- Glass
- Household Rubbish
- Kitchen scraps
- Tetra pak

**NOTES**: Kitchen scraps are excluded because of the risk of cross contamination from meat products. You can recycle Tetrapak at some of our bring Centres. Please do not put hazardous weeds in the bin – e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Ragwort.

What about home composting?

It’s cheap, easy and you’ll be helping to improve your garden.

We have a range of home composters – and food digesters available to buy.

In a simple composter you can compost the same materials as you would put in the green bin

**PLUS**

You can also add card, and some kitchen waste.

**SPECIAL FOOD DIGESTERS**

There are also special food digesting composters which can accept food waste as well.

Visit our web site www.rother.gov.uk/recycling – and follow the links to see what’s available.
Recycle Glass Bottles & Jars

Glass – a brilliantly versatile material made from sand, soda ash and limestone. First used over 5,000 years ago, it can be used again and again and again...(as long as it doesn’t go into landfills!).

Why recycle glass bottles & jars?

- **Save resources**: New glass uses up a huge amount of natural resources, which are fast dwindling. Recycling glass reduces the amount of natural resources needed, meaning they will be there for future generations.
- **Save energy**: Recycling glass uses significantly less energy than that used to make new glass. In fact, recycling just one glass bottle will save enough energy to power a 100-watt light bulb for an hour, a computer for 25 minutes or a washing machine for 10 minutes.

How do I recycle glass bottles & jars?
Take your glass bottles and jars to your local Re-use and Recycling Centre.

The are 38 of these Bring Banks around the District.

Please remove lids, bottle tops, corks and give the bottles a quick rinse but you don’t have to worry about removing labels.

Recycle all glass bottles & jars
But
Please no plate glass (windows), Pyrex, crockery, light bulbs or drinking glasses.

What happens to the glass bottles & jars?
Because we are careful to collect glass in 3 different colours, clear, green and brown/blue, we can be sure our glass goes to be melted down and made into new bottles and jars.

....and while you're at the Bring Bank.....

All of our 38 Bring Centres have glass recycling available, but also check them out for

Books(17 sites), Textiles(18), Tetrapak(5), Paper(21) and Plastic Bottles/Cans(22)
Residents often ask about the destination of the materials we collect for recycling.

We're very proud to say that all of our materials go for genuine and sustainable use.

We were very pleased that our markets held up very well during the recent credit crunch.

Glass is taken to Bellbrook in Uckfield where it is graded and forwarded to British Glass to be made into new bottles and jars.

Beverage Cartons are taken to a facility created with the help of Tetrapak to be reprocessed into new packaging items.

The Salvation Army, Green World And European Recycling redistribute books, shoes and textiles to those less fortunate. Those items not fit for use are used to make industrial wipes or insulation materials.

Paper is taken to Aylesford Paper in Kent where it’s made into new newsprint for your daily paper.

Cans and Plastic are taken together to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where they’re separated into steel, aluminium and plastic. The metal is used to make new metal goods. The plastic is shredded into flakes and used to make new plastic packaging or for use in the textile industry.

Garden Waste goes to a new composting plant near Whitesmith (Lewes). Most of the compost is used in agriculture, parks, gardens and nurseries, and some of it is on sale at the Household Waste sites at Pebsham, Mountfield, Wadhurst, Heathfield, etc.

Residual Waste is all delivered to the transfer station at Pebsham. Some is forwarded to landfill, but, increasingly, the waste is taken to incineration (EfW = Energy from Waste) plants where the combustion heat is used to generate electricity.

The new ESCC EfW plant was fully operational from late 2011.
Help!

Although we’ve designed a collection scheme that suits most of the residents in Rother, there are a few situations where we may have to change things slightly.

**Assisted collections**

We’re committed to providing quality and effective services to all residents and particularly to those with special requirements. We’ll help you to move your Rubbish and Recycling containers if:

- You are genuinely incapacitated or disabled, and
- There is no other able-bodied person living in your property to help you move your bins and boxes to the collection point.

**Bulky waste**

The Council has a special waste collection service for items which are too bulky for your wheelie bin. There is small charge for this service.

Contact us – see below – or you can now request, and pay for this service on our web pages.

Before throwing away household items, such as electrical goods or bulky furniture that are still of good quality, think about ways of re-using or donating your items to local charities.

**If you need a bigger bin............**

We are sure that, if you are careful to control your waste arisings, and recycle sensibly, that the standard black rubbish bin is suitable for a family of up to 4.

If you believe you may need extra capacity, please contact us.

We will assess each request carefully and only provide extra facilities where there is a proven need.

**...........or more recycling containers**

We are happy to provide more recycling boxes if you need them.

**...........or a second garden waste bin**

Many authorities charge extra for garden waste collections; we don’t.

But we do limit the service to one bin per household.

**Contact us**

[Website](https://www.rother.gov.uk/recycling)  
recycling@rother.gov.uk  
01424 787000

If you or someone you know, needs information in a different form (such as on tape, in larger print, in BSL or in Braille) or in a different language, please contact us.