

Garden Waste Collection Scheme

Frequently asked questions



Food waste

Food waste from your kitchen cannot be recycled with your garden waste. This is because of strict rules in place to prevent the spread of disease which mean our contractor is not licensed to accept this type of waste.

If our bin crews find food waste from your kitchen in your bin, they will not empty it and you will need to remove it before your next scheduled collection. Food waste can be composted at home and there are subsidised offers available to all Suffolk residents from: www.suffolk.getcomposting.com

How do you know who has subscribed?

All of our bin lorries are now equipped with in-cab technology that tells the crew which bins to collect. Only households that have got an up to date subscription are shown on the list and will have their bins emptied.

Can I put garden waste in my black bin?

Garden waste should not be put in the black bin as this is the most expensive and least environmentally friendly way of dealing with this waste. Alternatives to signing up for the brown bin service include:

- using your local Household Waste Recycling Centre
- buying or making your own home compost heap

Alternatively if you do not have a large amount of garden waste you may wish to consider sharing a bin and splitting the cost with your neighbour.

Where does it go?

All garden waste collected by West Suffolk councils is taken to our contractors composting facility in Red Lodge. Here the material is tipped into large piles which are frequently turned using large machinery. The waste naturally decomposes over 6-8 weeks and using careful management temperatures reach a high enough temperature to make sure any weeds and seeds are killed. Before the product is ready to be sold it is screened to remove any large pieces of waste that take longer to decompose.

Processing waste is a highly regulated business, so the licenses required to do so from the Environment Agency are complex and expensive to obtain. In addition, the land, machinery and staff required to run this type of facility are all expensive so as a consequence West Suffolk councils have to pay for garden

waste to be treated. Ensuring that we deliver garden waste only (no food waste or other things like plastic or concrete) helps to keep these costs down.

Can you pick up my brown bin if I don't want it?

No. Brown bins are to be retained at your property.