

12 ways to help our waste crews during Coronavirus

Bin collections are one of the essential services we're trying hard to keep running as normal during the Coronavirus pandemic.

But with more people spending time at home now and creating more waste, there are things we can all do to help our waste crews keep up with demand.

"We know how responsive residents are to our award-winning waste and recycling service which means we're one of the best performing councils in England," said Environment Committee Chair, Simon Pickering. "By making these relatively small changes we can continue to offer as full a service as possible to the whole district."

- 1.** Please don't put too much waste out. Extra bags ('side waste') won't be collected, so make sure your waste fits in your grey wheelie bin. If you have beige bags instead of a wheelie bin, crews will take a maximum of three bags on collection day.
- 2.** Anyone who has, or suspects they have, Covid-19 should double bag their soiled tissues and cleaning cloths and store them for 72 hours before presenting in their wheelie bin or beige sack. Please do not put tissues or used face masks in your recycling box. These should go in your general waste.
- 3.** Minimise waste where you can. There are lots of tips to help you reduce food waste at: <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>
- 4.** Recycle as much as you can. Check the guide on our website for full details: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/bins-and-recycling-containers/which-bin-should-i-use/green-wheelie-bin-and-box>
- 5.** Fold all cardboard to the approximate size of your recycling box. Larger pieces take up more space in the recycling trucks, resulting in more trips, and wasted time and fuel, so they may not be collected until made smaller.
- 6.** We're unable to take orders for extra or replacement receptacles so our staff can concentrate on keeping other essential services running. The two exceptions are replacement residual (grey) waste bins and receptacles for new build properties that haven't previously had any containers. We're still trying our best to deliver these. If you don't have a recycling box, please improvise by using a storage box or laundry basket of a similar size; please just ensure it will be safe for the operative to lift. If you haven't got a food waste bin then you can use your small food caddy.
- 7.** New bulky waste bookings have been temporarily suspended. We know it's not ideal but please keep large items at home until we're able to start the service again.
- 8.** The household recycling centres ('the tip'), operated by Gloucestershire County Council, are all closed on government advice. Please keep hold of everything you would have disposed of there until they re-open.
- 9.** When your wheelie bin, food bin and recycling box and bag have been emptied please wash your hands after taking them in. Crews have enhanced hygiene systems in place, but we're all still advised to wash our hands frequently.
- 10.** Please avoid using our textile banks, which are not accepting further donations at this time.
- 11.** Avoid overfilling your garden waste bin. We know gardens are receiving lots of love and attention at the moment, but please don't overfill bins. If you have too much for your bin, don't force it in, try and wait for the next collection.
- 12.** Please keep your distance. Stay at least two metres away from everyone, including the crews. They really appreciate the public's support - so a cheery smile and wave will make their day.