

# Guidance on Waste and Recycling for New Residential Houses

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## 1. Introduction & Overview

Stevenage Borough Council is committed to reducing waste generation through prevention, reuse, and recycling. In line with statutory targets to divert biodegradable waste from landfill, all new residential developments must incorporate effective waste management solutions.

This guidance supports developers and landowners in planning efficient waste management infrastructure for new or refurbished residential schemes. It aligns with the following standards and policies:

- Building Regulations: Approved Document H – Drainage and Waste Disposal
- BS 5906:2005 – Waste Management in Buildings
- Waste Duty of Care: Code of Practice (GOV.UK)
- Stevenage Borough Council's Waste Management Policy
- Stevenage Borough Council's Waste and Recycling Guidance
- Manual Handling Regulations (1992)

## 2. Storage and Design

All new residential developments must provide standard waste container capacity as set out in Section 4 and the design of the dwellings should allow for the waste collection vehicle access requirements in Section 5.

All designs must ensure that waste collection vehicles can access and service each household.

- Most areas of Stevenage operate alternate weekly collections for residual waste, recycling, and garden waste. Food waste is collected weekly.
- Developers are encouraged to incorporate adequate internal space for storing recyclable and residual waste within all new houses.
- External containers must be accessible without passing through the home.
- Adequate space must be provided between dwellings for bin movement.
- External storage areas should be:
  - » Within the property boundary
  - » In open air (preferably shaded)
  - » Away from windows/ventilators
- Level access between bins and recycling containers and collection point is required (no steps).
- Operatives will not move bins or recycling containers through homes or up/down steps.
- Residents must be able to store waste within their property boundary, not on public highways.

## 3. Waste Collection Services for Houses

### 3.1 Residual Waste

- One 180L black wheeled bin per household- collected fortnightly

### 3.2 Recycling

- 60L black bag – plastics & cans- collected fortnightly
- 60L blue bag – paper & card- collected fortnightly
- 23L red caddy – glass- collected fortnightly

### 3.3 Food Waste

- 5L green kitchen caddy (internal use)
- 23L green caddy (external) - collected weekly

### 3.4 Garden Waste

- One 240L brown wheeled bin
- Collected fortnightly

## 4. Bin Provision for New Developments

- Minimum 4 months’ notice required for bin supply
- Move-in dates to be provided at least 2 months in advance
- Charges apply for bin provision
- Containers must be purchased from Stevenage Borough Council to ensure correct sizing

### 4.1 Bin Types & Sizes

Use	Container	Width	Depth	Height
Garden waste	240L Brown bin	580mm	740mm	1070mm
General refuse	180L Black bin	483mm	710mm	1070mm
Dry Recycling	60L Blue and Black bags	490mm	350mm	350mm
Glass	23L Green caddy	320mm	350mm	410mm
Food waste external	23L Green caddy	290mm	350mm	420cm
Kitchen food waste	5L Green caddy	270mm	200mm	210mm

### 4.2 Example Photographs



## 5. Waste Collection and Access Requirements

### 5.1 Collection Vehicles

- Standard vehicles: 26-tonne (most common) and 32-tonne (some operations).
- Typical dimensions for a standard 26 tonne waste collection vehicle:
  - » Width: 2.5 m
  - » Height: 3.4 m
  - » Length: 12.1 m
  - » Turning circle: 20.3 m
- Site design must accommodate safe access and turning.

### 5.2 Collection Distances

- Maximum walking distance for operatives: 10 m
- Maximum reversing distance for vehicles: 12 m

### 5.3 Roads and Access Routes

- Roads must withstand up to 32-tonne gross waste collection vehicle weight.
- Design standards:
  - » Minimum road width: 5 m
  - » Vehicles should travel forward wherever possible
  - » Reversing limited to 12 m (only if unavoidable)
  - » Maximum vehicle operating height: 5.64 m
  - » Turning circle: 20.3 m
- For more detail, refer to BS 5906:2005 – Waste Management in Buildings.

## 6. Effective Resident Communication

Clear communication with residents is essential to ensure correct use of containers, reduce waste, and improve recycling rates.

- Developers can request copies of the “Recycling in Stevenage. A guide to refuse and recycling at home” leaflet for residents, available at an additional cost via Stevenage Borough Council.