



# CHANGES TO YOUR WASTE ARRANGEMENTS



**Good  
for Bristol  
& good for  
business**

# OUR AMBITION



**The council is changing its approach to waste collection. We want to create a Bristol that is cleaner, safer, and litter-free. This will encourage more visitors to our vibrant, bustling city, teeming with independent shops, restaurants, venues and bars, and help the economic recovery from COVID-19.**

Streets that are free from trade bins and waste are more pleasant and inviting for residents and visitors. They allow people more space to move around the city; and improved access and appearance can also help businesses to attract more customers.

When trade waste is permanently stored on our streets it attracts vermin, causes litter and can stop people with mobility issues or with pushchairs from getting around.

Litter is a problem for everyone. We all want to create the very best

impression for our residents and visitors – whether they live here, work here, or are here for business or leisure. We are always looking for ways to improve our cleansing services, but we need your support to make a real difference.

We all have a responsibility to look after our local area, and we want to work with you to clean up our city and to attract customers back. By identifying the different kinds of littering problems that businesses face, as well as where and when they are occurring, we can find solutions together.

# THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

## Storing trade bins on the highway has the following negative impacts:

- Blocked pavements and roads – cause access problems for businesses and pedestrians, particularly people with mobility issues, visually impaired, wheelchair users, and parents with pushchairs.
- Vermin/pests – bins left open or overflowing, or trade sacks left on the street, encourage vermin and pests and can lead to litter being strewn across the street.
- Anti-social behaviour – a messy street can increase nuisance problems such as public urination and graffiti.
- Litter – where there is already litter, it is more likely people will continue to litter. Clearing it up can help prevent that from happening.
- Large bins left on streets can attract fly-tippers and residents adding their domestic waste.
- Health and safety – there is an increased likelihood of people needing to walk on the highway, broken glass and trip hazards.
- Many businesses are choosing to maintain social distancing which has reduced the capacity in some of our bars and restaurants, leading to more people having takeaways in the city's open spaces, including around the harbour or in parks. If litter is left it can attract vermin such as rats, seagulls and foxes.



# A NEW STANDARD FOR BRISTOL

**We are implementing new rules for how trade waste from businesses should be stored and how waste bins or sacks are presented on the highway and public land.**

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## WHAT IS YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY?

**Every business in the city has a legal responsibility under the Environment Protection Act 1990 to safely contain and legally dispose of any waste.**

**You have a 'Duty of Care' to manage your waste as follows:**

- Waste must be collected by a licensed waste carrier.
- Your waste must be securely stored and locked away.
- The name of your business must be displayed on the waste.
- Waste must not be left beside bins or sacks.
- Access to the public highway must not be blocked.

## HOW SHOULD YOU PRESENT WASTE?

**Under the new standards you are not permitted to store trade bins on the highway or on public land, or to leave sacks for collection overnight.**

**To help us maintain an inviting and clean city, each business has a responsibility to present their waste as follows under Section 47 of the Environment Protection Act:**

- Waste must be stored in or on the business premises.
  - Labelled with the business name.
  - Presentable and lockable, with any issues being reported to the trade waste contractor.
  - Only put out for collection at permitted times.
  - Brought back into the business premises if it is not collected.
- In addition:**
- All businesses should recycle glass, cardboard and food waste.
  - It is the responsibility of businesses to ensure that their staff are trained to meet presentation requirements.
  - Any litter created by customers should be cleared by businesses. On-site litter bins or localised litter picks are recommended.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THE RULES?

**We will engage with businesses and clearly define what is required, but where companies repeatedly fail to adhere to the rules we will take enforcement action.**

**Any business that does not comply could face:**

- The removal of their bin and being charged storage fees.
- Fixed penalty notices of up to £110.
- Prosecution will be considered as a last resort.

# TRADE WASTE SERVICES

**This section outlines the types of trade waste services that are available, and those that are acceptable where storage within your premises is not possible.**

**This is a guide and you should consult your trade waste contractor or alternative contractors on what solutions are available to you, they are the experts and should be able to identify a solution to your requirements and tailor their service to meet your needs.**

**The following are the key elements that you need to consider:**

## Storage Capacity

- Trade bins come in various sizes – you should select a size that you can store and manoeuvre in and out of your premises.
- Reusable sack service – if you do not have enough space to store a bin, then a reusable sack service can be offered by trade waste contractors. The reusable sack will protect your waste from being ripped open and strewn across the pavement by vermin and pests.
- Carry-out service – some waste contractors may be able to offer a service whereby waste is collected from inside your business.

## Frequency

If you do not have storage on your premises for the waste that you produce, you need to adjust the frequency of your collections.

## Timings

If your business is in a high footfall area, you will be given a time slot to present your waste for collection. All bins or bags of waste may be put out on the boundary of your property during that period. If it remains uncollected after the time slot, you should remove it from the street, store it on your premises and contact your trade waste contractor to arrange its collection.

## Recycling

The government will soon be changing legislation, meaning that all businesses must recycle their waste into different material streams. It is a good idea to start recycling now if you don't already. It helps the environment, and can reduce your costs for waste disposal.

### The most common streams for recycling are:

- **Food Waste** – this should be collected separately and must be presented in rigid containers to prevent vermin.
- **Cardboard** – there are a number of different options for collecting and storing card which are dependent on the amount produced by your business.
- **Glass** – this should be presented in rigid containers for collection.
- **Plastic** – we encourage your business to explore using products that do not result in single use plastic waste. If your plastic waste is unavoidable then you should talk to your waste contractor to identify a suitable recycling service.



# THE COUNCIL'S ROLE

The council is committed to a high standard of street cleansing. The council's role in creating a more inviting and clean city is to use its powers under the Environment Protection Act and Highways Act to:

- **EDUCATE** – The council will provide you with information on your legal waste management obligations. We will also share our expectations and what we will do when your legal obligations are not met.
- **ENGAGE** – The council will engage with businesses, with annual visits, and where necessary will issue Section 47 Notices to outline requirements.
- **ENFORCE** – The council will take enforcement action when businesses do not adhere to their legal requirements or the presentation standards.

**MONTH 1  
EDUCATE**

Leaflet drop  
and site visit

**MONTH 2-3  
ENGAGE**

Site visits and  
further engagement  
with businesses  
as required

**MONTH 4  
ONWARDS  
ENFORCEMENT**

Only where  
needed





**WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER OUR LOCAL AREA, AND WE WANT TO WORK WITH YOU TO CLEAN UP OUR CITY AND MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO EVERYONE.**

**If you would like to find out more please visit the council's webpage where you will find: Frequently Asked Questions, information on bin sizes etc.**

Visit: [www.bristol.gov.uk/waste-improvement](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/waste-improvement)

Email: [waste.improvement@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:waste.improvement@bristol.gov.uk)

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