



Food Waste FAQs for Trade Customers

What can go in the food waste bin?

- Meat and fish: Including bones.
- Dairy: Including cheese, eggs, and egg shells.
- Fruit and vegetables: Including peelings.
- Bread, cakes, and pastries: Including leftovers and plate scrapings.
- Rice and pasta: Including cooked and uncooked food.
- Tea bags and coffee grounds: Including tea leaves.

What cannot go in the food waste bin?

- Packaging of any sort.
- Liquids.
- Animal faeces.
- Glass.
- Garden waste.

Which businesses are required to separate food waste for collection?

All businesses that have ten or more employees need to comply by April 2025. Micro-firms (ten or less employees) are not required to comply until March 2027.

Do all businesses with ten or more employees need to comply?

Whilst the legislation for food waste comes into force on 31st March 2025, Broxtowe Borough Council has been given an extended deadline to introduce food waste collections for **relevant non-domestic premises only**, this is due to existing waste disposal contracts. Please see the below list of relevant non-domestic premises:

- A resident home
- Premises forming part of a university or school or other education establishment;
- Premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home;
- A place of worship
- A penal institute
- A charity shop selling donated good originating from a domestic property
- A residential hostel which provided accommodation only to persons with no other permanent address or who are unable to live at their permanent address
- Premises used wholly or mainly for public meetings

If your business falls into one of these categories, you are not required to separate out your food waste until October 2027. However, if you would prefer to begin your food waste collections before this date, contact environment@broxtowe.gov.uk.

Why are food waste collections being introduced?

To reduce the amount of food going to Energy Recovery and instead can be reprocessed into fertiliser and biogas to generate electricity which will improve energy security.

Why can't I just put it in my general waste bin?

If your business meets the criteria to require food waste collections, they have to comply according to the new government legislation.

When is my collection?

Collections will take place weekly on Thursday, please make sure your bin is placed out for collection before 6.30am.

Do I have to put my food waste in a bag?

Using bags for your food waste will help to keep your bin clean and prevent smells. Using bags is optional and they will not be included in the price of your collection. If you choose to use bags they must be clear or biodegradable.

Why can't compostable packaging go in?

Compostable materials require specific conditions and time frames to break down which isn't the same as food waste, therefore cannot go in your food waste bin.

What happens to the food waste?

After collection, the food waste is taken to an anaerobic digester, operated in Derby by Severn Trent. Below is a brief description on how the food waste is processed:

1. Pre-treated to remove any contaminants including liners, it is also heated to kill pathogens.
2. Once in the anaerobic digester, bacteria break down the food waste, without oxygen, producing biogas and digestate.
3. The biogas gas is then used to generate electricity.
4. The digestate is nutrient rich, this can be used for biofertiliser.

How do I prevent pests getting into my food waste bin?

Using biodegradable or clear bags to dispose of your food waste will minimise the smell and therefore is less likely to attract pests. Make sure the lid of your food bin is fully shut as this will also minimise smells and access to the bin.

Will the Council be providing bags/liners to businesses?

No, if you choose to use liners they will have to be purchased by the business.

My bin was missed, what do I do?

If your bin has been missed you can report this [online](#).

My bin has been tagged as contaminated and not collected, what do I do?

You will need to contact the Council as soon as possible to get your food waste bin emptied on another day. Call 0115 917 7777 or email environment@broxtowe.gov.uk.

Why don't households have to comply?

Households will have to comply to this new legislation in October 2027.

What if multiple businesses who have more than ten employees in total share bins?

The new guidance applies to each business individually, so if multiple businesses with fewer than ten employees individually share bins, they are not required to comply to separate food waste collections until March 2027.

Will the Council provide indoor caddies for trade customers?

Indoor caddies will not be provided to trade customers; these will have to be purchased externally.