

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Design Guide for the Storage of Solid Waste in New Developments

1 Introduction

The purpose of this Guide is to ensure that all new developments, both domestic and commercial, incorporate sufficient space and arrangements for the storage and collection of the waste taking into account the refuse and recycling collection methods of the Council.

The Guide should provide all developers, SCDC and all other interested parties concerned with the approval of designs for development with guidance for the provision of refuse storage arrangements.

All new development must meet the requirements of the Building Regulations. Part H6 of the Regulations (Solid Waste Storage) require:

- (1) Adequate means of storing solid waste shall be provided.
- (2) Adequate means of access should be provided –
 - (a) For people in the building to the place of storage, and
 - (b) From the place of storage to a collection point by the waste collection authority.

Considerations regarding the storage of solid waste have tended to be overlooked in new development. However, satisfactory provision for such storage should form part of good practice in the design of new developments. It is important that this is not overlooked in the planning process.

The Building Regulations require certain measures to be taken. However, waste storage needs to be considered at the pre-planning stage and incorporated at an early stage to ensure design changes are not needed in the later stages of the planning process.

The other main piece of legislation regarding refuse collection is the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This Act place various duties on local authorities –

- (1) Under Section 45 (Collection of Controlled Waste) local authorities have a general duty to collect household waste within their area without charge.
- (2) Under Section 46 (Receptacles for household waste) a local authority may require –
 - (a) waste of certain types to be stored separately so that it can be recycled

- (b) occupiers of dwellings to provide containers of a specified type for the storage of waste
 - (c) additional containers to be provided for the separate storage of recyclable waste
 - (d) locations where containers should be placed for emptying
- (3) Also under Section 45 local authorities have a duty to collect commercial waste where requested and may charge for this service.

2 Refuse Collection Method

The Council has adopted a wheeled bin refuse and recycling collection scheme for all existing domestic dwellings together with a box for dry recyclables. Each domestic dwelling has –

- (a) One 240 litre green wheeled bin for organic waste (green garden, kitchen waste and cardboard)
- (b) One 240 litre black wheeled bin for residual waste (any waste that cannot be recycled, or for which a collection system is not provided)
- (c) One 55 litre green box for dry recyclables. As at April 2003 these are –
 - (i) paper
 - (ii) glass
 - (iii) mixed cans
 - (iv) textiles

NOTE: It is likely that as more legislation comes into force that make recycling targets more stringent that other elements of the waste stream will also have to be collected separately. Householders will have to make provision to separate these elements for collection.

The green and black wheeled bins are collected on an alternate weekly basis. The green box is collected on the same day as the green wheeled bin.

Some larger dwellings may have two black wheeled bins for their residual waste and all householders have the option to purchase an additional green wheeled bin.

3 Domestic Developments

This Guidance Note relates to all new domestic development and includes extensions to existing buildings in order to ensure that the arrangements for the storage and collection of refuse from such extended buildings are improved where possible.

The proposals for such storage should be incorporated into the design stage of any development at the earliest opportunity and discussed with the Council's Planning Officers at the pre-application stage.

A Capacity

- (1) Individual dwellings

Space shall be provided for two 240 litre wheeled bins and one 55 litre box. An area of 1.2 metres square (1.5 square metres) should be sufficient to provide storage for these containers and provide space for access by the householder.

(2) Low Rise Developments

In low rise domestic developments (up to 4 floors) any dwelling should have, or have access to, a location where one or more moveable, individual or communal waste container can be stored.

The number of communal containers, usually 1100 litre wheeled bins, which will be required needs to be assessed taking into account several factors. Each dwelling should have a capacity in accordance with the following table –

Size of dwelling (all habitable rooms)	Capacity for residual waste (litres)	Capacity for green waste (dwellings with gardens) (litres)	Capacity for green waste (dwellings without gardens) (litres)	Capacity for dry recyclables (litres)
Single room units	175	100	30	25
Two room units	200	110	40	40
Three room units	240	130	50	55
Four room units	300	160	60	70
Five or more room units	350	200	70	85

The capacities shown in the table are based on alternate weekly collections and are for low rise communal dwellings only.

Each dwelling where communal bins are provided for green and residual waste shall also have space provided for the storage of one box for dry recyclables.

B Siting and Design

(1) General

Any storage area for containers shall be sited so that the distance householders are required to carry refuse to the storage area does not exceed 30 metres (excluding any vertical distances).

External storage areas should be away from windows and ventilators and preferably be in a shaded place. Such areas should not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular access to buildings.

Where an enclosed area or storage room is provided sufficient additional space should be provided around the containers for moving in and out and for filling and cleaning. Enclosures should be at least 2m high and be permanently ventilated at the top and bottom and have a paved impervious floor with no step to the paved surface giving access to the waste collection point or the refuse collection vehicle.

(2) Individual Dwellings

The storage area for containers up to 240 litres should be within 30 metres of the waste collection point (normally the edge of the curtilage of the property nearest the point of access by a refuse collection vehicle, or at the end of a shared drive) and accessible across a paved impervious surface at least 1.0 metres in width. The Council may specify the waste collection point for each dwelling, or group of dwellings. Such waste collection points should be as close as possible to the nearest place the refuse collection vehicle (26 tonne) can gain access and should not exceed 20 metres.

Storage areas for wheeled bins should be sited so that they can be taken to the waste collection point without having to be taken through a building, unless it is a porch, garage or carport or other covered open space. There should be no more than 4 steps of a maximum of 150 mm between the storage area and the waste collection point. There should be no steps between the waste collection point and the refuse collection vehicle (except one normal kerb). Any slope along which a wheeled bin has to be manoeuvred should not exceed 1:12. This slope may be exceeded over short distances.

The storage areas for containers up to 240 litres should be sited, wherever possible, in the rear garden. If this is not possible, for example in terraced properties with no access from the rear garden to the waste collection point then a suitable storage area at the front of the property will need to be provided. Since such areas will usually be publicly accessible, an enclosure or shelter, or other suitable screen should be provided, this need not necessarily be roofed. In cases of terraced houses abutting the street, the enclosure should either be incorporated into the design of the house or vehicular access should be available to enclosures at the rear of the house.

(3) Communal Storage Areas

The storage area for containers up to 1100 litres should be within 10 metres of the nearest place the refuse collection vehicle can gain access. Any path between the storage area and the refuse collection vehicle should consist of a paved impervious surface at least 1.5 metre in width.

There should be no steps between the storage areas for containers up to 1100 litres and the refuse collection vehicle.

(4) Future Refuse and Recycling Collections

This Guide contains advice regarding refuse collection arrangements with regard to storage, distances, siting, access etc.

Should any development be carried out that does not take account of the advice provided all future refuse collection will be by means of wheeled bins. This may mean householders may have to carry refuse or move bins in excess of the maximum distances shown in the Guide.

C Access for Refuse Collection Vehicles

Careful consideration needs to be given to how the refuse collection vehicles can gain access to empty wheeled bins.

In general all adopted roads will have been designed with access for large vehicles, including refuse collection vehicles.

There are, however, aspects of modern developments which can cause difficulties with collections from certain dwellings.

There will be an increasing trend for denser development necessitating collections being made in communal bins. These are usually sited to the rear of blocks of flats to which access is gained between other dwellings or under arches etc. Where individual or communal enclosures or shelters are required these should be directly accessible to refuse collection vehicles

The turnings into these areas should be designed with the large refuse collection vehicles in mind, and should follow adoptable standards. These areas can also be difficult for a large vehicle to manoeuvre in, made more difficult by vehicle parking.

All such areas, including private drives where applicable should be constructed to withstand a 26 tonne gross vehicle weight and axle weights of 12 tonnes. They should be a minimum of 4 metres in width. All service inspection covers should also be of the type to withstand the wheel loading of 26 tonne vehicles.

Designs should be such that a refuse collection vehicle should not have to reverse more than 25 metres. Designs should also incorporate turning areas for large vehicles in private areas if necessary. These areas should not form part of any parking allowance.

4 Commercial Developments

It is impossible to determine in advance what storage requirements are appropriate for commercial developments as the end use of buildings is often unknown and is likely to change over time.

Considerations regarding access, headroom should be assessed at an early stage and form an integral part of any design. In any case the distance from any refuse storage area should be no more than 10 metres from an accessible point for the refuse collection vehicle with no steps or gradients steeper than 1:12.

For more information please see:

BS 5906 - Code of practice for storage and on-site treatment of solid waste from buildings.

5 Consultations

Applicants for planning permission are strongly advised to consult the Council's Commercial Services Department before submitting a planning application to ensure that the proposed development accords with this Guidance Note. When a planning application, which involves development served from a proposed new access road, whether that is to be private or adopted, is received, the Local Planning Authority will consult with the Council's Commercial Services Department.

6 Notes

Drafts of this Guide were circulated to all Developers with interests in the Cambridge area. A favourable response welcomed the advice in the Guide.

7 Contacts

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