

# Refuse & Recycling Storage Design Guide



April 2022



1. Good design and effective management are essential to protect amenity.



1. Threat to public health.



2. Harm to residential amenity



3. Permanent footway obstruction.



4. Front garden too small to accommodate bin.

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Council is required, under part II of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act, to collect household waste from all residential properties in the borough and, if requested, make provisions for the collection of commercial waste. Under section 46 of the Act, the Council specifies the type and number of receptacles to be used and where they should be placed in order to ensure compatibility with council collection methods and to facilitate collections.

1.2 This guidance is offered to assist designers achieve adequate refuse and recycling storage facilities. If not carefully considered significant problems can arise for residents, the public and those responsible for refuse collection and transportation. Common issues include:

- **Harm to visual amenity** caused by storage containers can be extreme; the impact of bins standing in forecourts and front gardens can be adverse both for residents of these premises and the passing public.
- **Threat to public health** and amenity by inadequate refuse storage. Vermin are attracted to uncontained refuse bringing the potential for disease and infection. Unpleasant odours emanating from bins and storage areas can blight the residential amenity of adjoining residents.
- **Highway Obstruction** due to bins standing permanently on the street and thus restricting the footway. This can be particularly problematic for wheelchair users and people with push-chairs and restricting the view of drivers and thus have the potential to impact adversely on highway safety.

### Planning Applications

1.3 It is important that application submissions (both for full permission and for the discharge of conditions) are accompanied with sufficient information (including metric scaled drawings) to clearly illustrate the proposal. A failure to meet the requirements of Policy Q12 and the associated guidance within this document may result in permission being refused

1.4 Planning approvals must be implemented in accordance with the approved drawings. Failure to do so is likely to result in a breach of planning control and may result in enforcement action being taken. Similarly, should unacceptable works be implemented without the necessary planning approvals enforcement action may also result.

### Commencement of Collection Services

1.5 When a new residential development is nearing completion, it is the responsibility of the developer to contact Lambeth Environmental Services and Lambeth Highways to arrange for waste and recycling collection services to commence.

### Further Information

1.6 This guidance should be read in conjunction with Lambeth Street care's '*Waste and Recycling Storage and Collection Requirements*'. Queries relating to technical specifications and collection requirements should be referred to Lambeth Streetcare:

e-mail                      streetcarecallcentre@lambeth.gov.uk

## **General Requirements**

1.7 The following general advice should be followed:

- The distance from front doors to refuse stores should be 25m max. (measured horizontally).
- Storage areas where bins have to be taken through a building are not acceptable unless it is a covered outside space such as a porch, garage or carport.
- Floor drains **MUST** connect to a system suitable for receiving polluted runoff.
- Enclosures within buildings should be secure to prevent entry of vermin.
- Where provided, doors must be fitted with a hook back facility to aid access and egress.
- Light fittings should be accessible to aid maintenance.
- In a residential development where a chute system is proposed, the chute should be a minimum of 45cm in diameter, have a smooth non-absorbent surface, close fitting access doors and be ventilated at the top and bottom.

1.8 Waste collection operatives will not:

- move wheeled bins (max 360 litres) more than 25m in total.
- transport a wheeled bulk waste container more than 10m in total.
- move sacks or bins from basements or places above ground floor level.

1.9 The route between the storage area and the collection point should:

- be step free (dropped kerbs are acceptable).
- have a solid foundation.
- have a smooth continuous surface (a cobbled surface is unsuitable for any type of wheeled container).
- should not exceed 1:12 gradient
- have a minimum width of two metres.

1.10 Roads providing access to the collection point should:

- have foundations and a hard-wearing surface capable of withstanding a fully laden refuse vehicle of 26 tonnes gross vehicle weight (GVW), with a maximum axle weight of 11 tonnes.
- have a minimum width of 5m and arranged so that the collection vehicle can continue mainly in a forward direction. If turning space is necessary, the road layout should permit a turning circle of 18.5m, kerb to kerb or 21.1m wall to wall.
- Not have gates or arches on the vehicle route which do not meet a minimum clearance of 3.72m width and 4.3m height.

1.11 Below ground storage is no longer supported. They have proven problematic for a number of technical and practical reasons and are no longer considered acceptable on schemes where the rubbish and recycling are collected by Lambeth Streetcare.

## 2. Wheelie Bins

### General Advice

- 2.1 Wheelie bins are most commonly used for low-rise housing and where houses have been converted into a small number of flats; where there is external space for bin storage.
- 2.2 Wheelie bins should have:
- Have a convenient, dedicated storage place within front gardens
  - A hard paved direct route to the street for collection.
- 2.3 Brick screen walls (double skin brickwork) are the best option as they withstand impacts from the bins. Timber enclosures are not considered robust enough to take the heavy impacts of wheelie bins and are vulnerable to decay. The lid of the bin must easily opened when it is 'parked' within the enclosure, this makes manoeuvring and access important considerations.
- 2.4 Wheelie bin enclosures should not have doors or roofs.
- 2.5 Not all housing within Lambeth can accommodate individual wheelie bins. Properties within the following categories may be exempted from having wheelie bins:
- Where there is insufficient space for a 140, 240 or 360 litre wheelie bin without obstructing either the entrance to a property or the public pavement.
  - Where it is not possible for the user to manoeuvre the bin from its storage point to the collection point without endangering themselves or anyone else involved. Lack of adequate maintenance by the householder to hedges, walls, paths or fences will not be accepted as a legitimate reason in this instance.
  - Where the collection operatives are unable to manoeuvre the bin from the collection point to the refuse vehicle and back without endangering themselves or anyone else.
- 2.6 To discuss exemptions please contact: [streetcarecallcentre@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:streetcarecallcentre@lambeth.gov.uk)

### Larger Schemes

- 2.7 In large developments ground floor units which have their own front doors and own front gardens to the street should be provided with their own wheelie bins rather than being required to use communal facilities.



1. Dedicated storage locations are considered essential.

2. Camouflage can lessen visual impact.



3. Part of this garden has been excavated to keep the bins out of sight from the street. Their in-ground placement allows easier access to the lids for users. The bins are wheeled up a gentle ramp for collection.

### 3. External communal refuse / recycling storage

3.1 In larger schemes and on housing estates Euro-bins stored outside the building are the preferred refuse storage option. Consideration needs to be given to:

#### Location

- 3.2 Unobtrusive side and rear locations / service areas are preferred. Siting at main entrances and on street frontages should be avoided in order to protect amenity. Siting near the windows of habitable rooms is generally unacceptable on odour and outlook grounds.
- 3.3 Manoeuvring routes should be clear of obstruction (bollards and yellow lines should clearly define the route). Adequate sight-lines, turning heads and access routes should be provided for collection vehicles. Flat surfaces and drop-down kerbs are essential to aid easy movement of the containers.

#### Construction

3.4 Brickwork (double skin) walls should have rubber buffers to protect from impacts. Pipes and other services should be protected within steel cages. Hit-and-miss brickwork detailing may be used if ventilation / ornamental effect is required. Walls should not significantly exceed the height of the bins. Headroom should be a minimum of 2m. A clear space of 150mm should be provided between and around the bins for ease of access and manoeuvring. Floors should be paved and step-free. Fully enclosed structures should be avoided. Pergolas are encouraged in order to provide visual screening, but must be accompanied by suitable climbing plants. Steel framed gates and enclosure frames are preferred. Timber frames are not considered robust / durable enough and will be resisted.

#### Security

- 3.5 If publicly accessible stores should be gated and locked to guard against misuse and anti-social behaviour (public urination, defecation, prostitution, drug dealing etc.) . Gates should have robust galvanised steel frames / hinges and locks.
- 3.6 To avoid graffiti the use of rendered walls (painted and unpainted) will be resisted.



1. Bad design- no screening and timber not robust.



2. Oppressive effect.



1. Inadequate screening. 2. Unacceptable - Timber frame vulnerable to impacts.



3 & 4 Gates (when required) need to be robust and well designed to withstand damage.



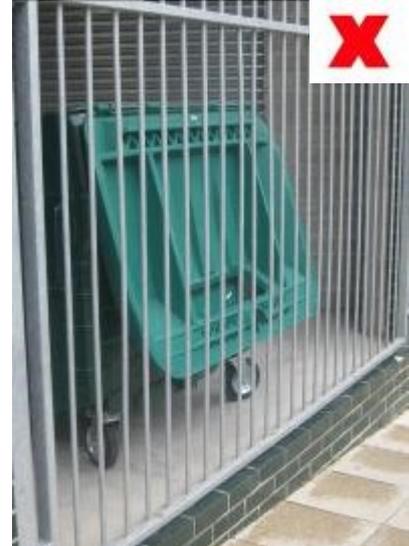
5 & 6 Pergola planting significantly enhances appearance; especially when viewed from above. Both structures are naturally ventilated, well designed and robustly constructed.

## 4. Incorporated communal refuse / recycling storage

- 4.1 Ideally storage should be free-standing away from the building. However, in schemes where site restrictions do not make this possible the incorporation of stores into the building will be acceptable where the following guidance is met.
- 4.2 Considerations include:
- Opening directly out onto the street for easy collection.
  - Convenient siting for both users and refuse collectors.
  - Practical internal layouts.
  - Amenity (noise, disturbance and smell).
  - Materials and detailing which are robust and attractive.
  - Community safety, highways safety crime and antisocial behaviour.
- 4.3 Siting at main entrances may be most convenient for users but needs to be carefully considered to ensure that it is not overly dominant or obtrusive. The residential entrance should be the primary architectural element NOT the refuse store.
- 4.4 A direct internal door should be avoided as it allows smells to permeate into the living areas and can allow access for vermin.
- 4.5 Enclosed storage spaces should have a total ventilation area of not less than 0.2m<sup>2</sup>. External doors should generally be vented but not where this might harm the amenity of adjoining occupiers. In these instances mechanical ventilation (preferably venting to the roof) must be provided and their internal doors should be sealed to prevent the spread of odour.
- 4.6 Headroom / ceiling heights should be a minimum of 2m high. Wall surfaces should be impervious. The layout should allow clear space of 1.5m around the refuse containers and allow for easy manoeuvring. The doors and frames should be need to be robustly constructed in steel (aluminium or timber framed doors are not considered suitable to withstand impacts), rubber buffers should be provided on internal walls and inside doors. Door stops and hooks for holding doors ajar should be provided. Taps for wash-down and floor drains should be provided to facilitate easy cleaning.
- 4.7 External access routes for collection should be step free and clear of obstruction (bollards and yellow lines should clearly define the access routes) for easy access both for users and refuse collectors. Adequate sight-lines, turning heads and access routes should be provided.



1. Screened, convenient location away from habitable rooms.



2. Inadequate screening.



3. Robust steel doors.



4. For individual units storage may be incorporated into porches.



5, 6 and 7—those doors are not constructed of robust materials and have become damaged as a result.

## 5. Internal (within property) refuse and recycling storage

- 5.1 Some conversions present no scope for conventional storage at ground level with direct access to the street; for example with flats above shops. Provision within the building may be the only option in these instances.

### **Within unit storage**

- 5.2 The storage location within the unit needs to be very carefully considered in order to protect the amenity of occupiers. In these instances a dedicated storage space should be provided within the flat kitchen. It must be large enough to accommodate the accumulation of refuse between collections.

### **Communal Within Building storage**

- 5.3 Enclosed communal storage spaces must have a total ventilation area of not less than 0.2m<sup>2</sup>; it is essential that fully internal storage area must be very well ventilated to the exterior. The door should have a tight seal and permanent mechanical ventilation must be provided where there is no opportunity for direct external ventilation. In addition:
- Floors and walls should be impervious and finished with robust easy-clean materials.
  - Racks should be provided to raise the sacks above floor level.

## Checklist

### Wheelie bins



- 1 Not stored on the street, footway or road
- 2 Convenient on-site storage location
- 3 Double-skin brickwork enclosure
- 4 No roof or door on enclosure
- 5 Suitable materials and paved floor
- 6 Step free route to collection point

### External Communal Refuse Stores



- 1 Unobtrusive on-site storage location
- 2 Safe and well lit access route
- 3 Located well away from habitable rooms
- 4 Double-skin brickwork enclosure
- 5 No roof
- 6 Rubber buffers on internal walls
- 7 Robust materials and paved floor
- 8 Wash-down tap and floor drain
- 9 Robust steel gates with locks and hook-back
- 10 Adequate amenity screening / planting
- 11 Adequate circulation space internally
- 12 Step free, paved route to vehicle collection point

### Incorporated Communal Refuse Stores



- 1 There is no way to provide an external refuse store
- 2 Safe, convenient, and unobtrusive location
- 3 Doors away from habitable room windows
- 4 Steel doors with locks and hook back
- 5 Limited key-holder access
- 6 Good natural ventilation or effective mechanical ventilation (venting to roof)
- 7 Robust materials and paved floor
- 8 Wash-down tap and floor drain
- 9 Rubber buffers on internal walls
- 10 Adequate circulation space internally
- 11 Step free, paved route to vehicle collection point

**This document was jointly prepared by  
Lambeth Planning and Lambeth Streetcare Services**

**April 2022**