

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Why do you want to reduce the frequency of non-recyclable waste collections?**

A: The council has committed to reducing its carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. To help meet this ambition, we need to reduce the amount of waste we send for incineration and increase recycling. This is more than a local commitment: The Mayor of London's Environment Strategy sets ambitious London-wide recycling targets, and the Government has recently introduced a target to halve the amount of waste treated as non-recyclable by 2042. Reducing the frequency of collections of non-recyclable waste would encourage more people to recycle as much as possible, helping to achieve these targets, while also reducing the number of vehicles required to carry out collections, resulting in cleaner air, reduced emissions, and less congestion on our streets.

**Q: What type of properties will this affect?**

A: This proposed change will only apply to 'kerbside' properties. These are low-rise houses or flats which use plastic wheelie bins for their non-recyclable waste. Properties that have their non-recyclable waste collected from large bulk bins, or from sacks, will not be affected by this proposed change.

**Q: What if my rubbish won't fit in my bin?**

- A: If the proposals are implemented and you recycle as much as you can each week using all the recycling services the council provides, you'll find that your non-recyclable (black bin) waste is dramatically reduced. As a reminder, you can recycle the following items from home: **In your green [recycling wheelie bin](#):**
  - Paper and card
  - Glass bottles and jars
  - Plastic bottles, pots, tubs, and trays
  - Metal food and drink cans
  - Food and drink cartons (Tetra-pak)
- **In your [food waste bin](#):**
  - meat and fish, including bones
  - fruit and vegetables
  - dairy products, including cheese, eggs and eggshells
  - bread, cakes, and pastries

- rice, pasta, grains, and cereals etc.
- tea bags, tea leaves and coffee grounds
- used kitchen paper towels
- **In your [garden waste](#) sacks:**
  - grass cuttings
  - leaves and twigs
  - weeds, shrubs, plants, and flowers
  - hedge trimmings
  - fruit fallen from trees and bushes
  - branches up to 10cm diameter
  - pet bedding, from plant-eating animals only, for example rabbits and guinea pigs
- **In a loosely tied carrier bag on top of your green recycling bin:**
  - [Small electrical items](#) (no bigger than a two-slice toaster)
- **In a loosely tied carrier bag on top of your black rubbish bin:**
  - Undamaged used [batteries](#) (except car batteries and lithium-ion batteries from phones and laptops etc.)

**None of the items listed above should be put inside your black rubbish bin.**

**Q: Won't my rubbish bin get smelly after two weeks?**

A: If you put food waste in your rubbish bin, it might start to smell before it's collected. This is why it's so important for everyone to use their food waste collection service, which will remain weekly. Alternatively, plant-based food waste can also be [composted at home](#).

All waste in your black rubbish bin should be contained in securely tied rubbish bags. If you use disposable nappies, these should be placed in securely tied nappy bags before being placed in a rubbish bag, to reduce the risk of odours.

**Q: How do you know it will increase recycling?**

A: Almost half of all London Boroughs have moved to fortnightly collections and have seen their recycling rates increase as a result. Most households can easily limit the amount of general waste they produce to [one bag a week](#) or less, and this will easily fit inside a standard-sized wheellie bin.

**Q: Doesn't our recycling just get dumped abroad anyway, so what's the point?**

A: Lambeth's recycling is first taken to a facility in Wandsworth where it's separated into different waste streams using sophisticated machinery. The separated materials are then formed into bales and sent to companies in the UK and Europe to be recycled into new products. None of the borough's recycling gets dumped abroad.

**Q: Will the weekly collection of recycling and food and green waste change?**

A: No, Lambeth's weekly collection of recycling and food and green waste will continue.

**Q: Isn't this just to save money?**

A: It's true that improving recycling and reducing the number of vehicles we use to collect waste could reduce the council's costs; however, more important is the reduction in the negative impact that Lambeth's waste operations might have on the environment, contributing to a more sustainable future.

**Q: I have a big family, so why can't I have a bigger bin than someone who lives alone?**

A: The council is considering options for larger households, including providing larger bins to households with five or more occupants.

**Q: What if I produce waste that other households do not have, such as disposable nappies or medical waste? How will we manage if our bin is only emptied every two weeks?**

A: The council is considering providing larger bins for households that produce more than the average amount of non-recyclable waste due to having children in disposable nappies, or medical waste.

**Q: What about people who have English as a second language? How are you going to make sure everyone understands this?**

A: Lambeth Council will engage with residents through a range of channels, including local media, social media, and community outreach. The council will work with community groups and stakeholders to ensure that everyone understands the proposed changes and how they can participate. Information will be made available in the most common languages in the borough.

**Q: What are you going to do if people don't recycle, and their general waste bin is just left overflowing, or they put extra bags out?**

A: The council understands that it takes time for individuals to get accustomed to change. If the proposals are progressed, for the first few weeks after moving to fortnightly collections we'll have a team of outreach workers who'll visit households that are having problems managing their waste. We'll provide information and advice on recycling so that people are aware of what they're supposed to be doing. The council's [One Bag a Week Challenge](#) will help with this.

**Q: How will you deal with excess litter and fly-tipping?**

A: We'll put measures in place to ensure any issues are kept to a minimum, such as:

- Twice-weekly litter-picking, including on collection day;
- Officers will proactively monitor environmental quality around the borough, taking action where problems are found;
- An anti-fly-tipping campaign will be produced to coincide with the launch of fortnightly collections

**Q: Will this impact businesses? And if not, why not?**

A: The proposed changes to the waste collection service will not impact businesses.

**Q: Are you going to provide new bins?**

A: The information received from the consultation will help the council with any decision around where bin sizes might need further consideration for those with specific needs.