Your guide to recycling right
Recycling isn’t rubbish; it’s a resource!

Once we collect your recycling and separate it into different types of materials, it’s sold to those who want to make use of it and this helps us to maintain key Council services at less cost to you. Recycling is a commodity and like all other commodities, the cleaner and more ‘pure’ it is, the higher its value.

The residents of Hull currently recycle nearly half of their household waste, which is a great effort! However, each year over 4,000 tonnes of the blue bin contents cannot be recycled which is costing the Council over £600,000.

We think this money could be better spent preserving and supporting other key services.

GET BIN SMART!
USE THIS GUIDE TO GET RECYCLING RIGHT

Sheree & Ellie
Hull Residents who recycle right!
What goes in your BLUE bin

ONLY the items listed below go in the BLUE bin.

✔ Paper
✔ Empty aerosol cans
✔ Cardboard
✔ Empty tins and cans
✔ Empty plastic bottles
✔ Empty food containers (excluding polystyrene)
✔ Clean kitchen foil
✔ Empty glass bottles and jars
✔ Empty food and drinks cartons (Tetrapak)
✔ Telephone directories
✔ Books

If it’s not on the list, check if it goes in the black or brown bin.

PLEASE NOTE

All items MUST be placed in the bin loose and NOT in carrier or bin bags or we will not be able to collect it.

NO BAGGED WASTE
NO FOOD WASTE
NO NAPPIES
NO CLOTHES / TEXTILES
FOOD WASTE bin

ONLY the items listed below go in the FOOD WASTE bin.

✔ Cooked and uncooked food
✔ Meat, fish and bones
✔ Rabbit / hamster bedding
✔ Peelings
✔ Egg shells
✔ Tea bags
✔ Bread
✔ Cheese
✔ Cut flowers
✔ House plants

If it’s not on the list, check if it goes in the blue or black bin.

PLEASE NOTE

ONLY use Council provided liners in your kitchen caddy. Free liners are available from your collection crew.

Daniel, a BIN SMART Hull resident
Your **BLACK** bin is used for everything else. Typically, this includes:

- ✔ Nappies
- ✔ Cling film and bubble wrap
- ✔ Crisp packets
- ✔ Baby and facial wipes
- ✔ Used kitchen paper
- ✔ Toothpaste tubes
- ✔ Food pouches (including pet food pouches)
- ✔ Vacuum cleaner bags (and contents)
- ✔ Wallpaper
- ✔ Pet waste
- ✔ Polystyrene

If you recycle as much as you can correctly, you should have more than sufficient space in the black rubbish bin for everything else. **Any extra waste should be taken to one of Hull’s three household waste recycling centres.**

**PLEASE NOTE**

We will only collect what’s inside the **black** bin, so please don’t put additional rubbish to the side or on top of the bin as we will not be able to collect it.

The bin lid needs to be closed flat or it may not be able to be emptied.
Got something **BIG** and **BULKY** to get rid of?

Each household in Hull can receive one free collection of up to five large items such as old furniture, large electrical goods or carpets per year.

To book a collection, just call **01482 300 300**.

To check what we can and cannot collect, visit [hullcc.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://hullcc.gov.uk/bulkywaste)
Frequently asked questions

Q Why can’t the Council remove the wrong items from recycling?
A When recycling is delivered to the sorting plant, the process of separating the materials is automated due to the vast quantities involved. The equipment used is capable of removing some items that shouldn’t be there, but not all. Plus, some of these items (such as clothes and textiles) can clog and damage the equipment. Manually sorting recycling would take too long and cost too much money.

Q Why can’t I put my recyclable waste in a carrier bag when other councils allow it?
A A recent study of waste from bags within the blue bins showed that over 60% of them contained rubbish that wasn’t recyclable. So, to tackle this problem, we no longer accept bagged waste, but we can recycle empty carrier bags.

Q I don’t recycle food waste because of the smells and flies it attracts. What can I do to prevent this?
A If you use the system correctly, neither of these things should be a problem. Please refer to the food waste section for more information.

Q Why is the problem costing so much money?
A Recycling is a commodity and like any other commodity, its value is determined by its purity. With many wrong items going in the recycling bin, this is reducing the value of materials that we would otherwise attain and costs more to sort.

Q Why can’t all packaging be made of recyclable materials?
A The government and the packaging industry have made some excellent progress on this over the past ten years but their powers are limited as packaging comes from all across the world. Also, almost everything is ‘technically’ recyclable but what can be accepted for recycling at the kerbside is dependant upon the arrangements made by each local authority.

Q Why can’t the collection crews leave the wrong items and collect just the right stuff?
A Our crews don’t have the time to sort through every bin before it gets emptied into the truck. They can only make a quick, visual check and if they spot things are wrong, they have to leave it un-emptied.

Q What if I make a small mistake in the recycling – will my bin not be collected?
A The odd errant item dropping into the wrong bin is not the end of the world and it’s unlikely we’ll not empty your bin. Nor do we need every item of recycling spotlessly clean; a quick rinse in the washing up water is fine. The most important things to avoid are food waste, liquid waste, bags of mixed waste, textiles and nappies.

Q I don’t have enough room in the black bin, can I request another one?
A If you recycle as much as you can correctly, you should have more than sufficient space in the black rubbish bin for everything else. Any extra waste should be taken to one of Hull’s three household waste recycling centres. Families of six or more can apply for an extra black bin.
Need help? Got a question? We’re here to help.

📞 01482 300 300  
✉️ info@hullcc.gov.uk  
🌐 www.hullcc.gov.uk

The information in this document can be made available in other formats (large print, audio, computer disk and Braille as appropriate) and different languages. Please telephone 01482 300 300.