

Recycling revolution: wheeled bins special

North Somerset Council's recycling revolution will see the introduction of wheeled bins for the majority of residents in the area, to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and encourage people to recycle more.

In March 2009, the council carried out a survey of every property in North Somerset, to work out exactly how much storage space was available to each household. Properties were divided into three categories:

- 1 Enough space for a wheeled bin.
- 2 Not enough space for a wheeled bin.
- 3 Flats of four or more households.

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Enough space for a wheeled bin.

Your household will receive a 180-litre capacity bin. This holds the equivalent of two standard-sized dustbins, or about three large sacks of rubbish.

Your household will get a wheeled bin if it has either . . .



a) a front garden or a forecourt more than 1.5m² in area



c) garage or driveway



b) side access to the rear of your property

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Not enough space for a wheeled bin.

Your household will receive a limited annual supply of coloured plastic sacks for putting out both recycling and non-recyclable rubbish. The council will issue rolls of sacks every six months.

Your household will get plastic sacks if it has either . . .



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Multiple flats overleaf ▶



a) no front garden and opens straight out on to the road or pavement



b) a forecourt or front garden too small to store a wheeled bin plus recycling containers (less than 1.5m²)



c) three or more steps between the edge of your property and the public highway



d) a steep frontage where there is no-where safe to store a wheeled bin



e) one, two or three flats with no storage space



f) is a flat above a shop or business

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Flats of four or more households

Blocks of flats of four or more will be looked at separately as the amount of storage space available at each property varies so widely. Flats that have no storage space will receive plastic sacks, but the council will still need to discuss collection points.

If you live in a building that has four or more flats, and have a management company the council would like to hear from you. Please email the address and contact details of your management company to revolution@n-somerset.gov.uk, so collection and storage arrangements for blocks of flats can be agreed.

Next steps

The council recognises that properties may have changed slightly since the survey was conducted last year. In addition, some households may have a lot of people living at the property.

So when the council starts writing to every household in North Somerset from March onwards to outline the proposed waste and recycling service for that property, there will be the opportunity to contact the council to demonstrate that the solution is not suitable for you, and a council officer will then come and visit you to verify this, before any collections change.

Please wait for this letter, which will give much greater detail on what to do, before contacting the council.

Wheeled bins: exploding the myths



Life answers all your questions about the new wheeled bins being introduced for most residents in North Somerset later this year.

Why wheeled bins?

Your feedback Three out of five North Somerset residents said the council should provide them with a wheeled bin.

Increased recycling Councils using wheeled bins have significantly decreased the amount of waste going to landfill and increased recycling rates.

Cleaner streets satisfaction with street cleanliness is much higher in areas using wheeled bins because black sacks are no longer ripped open by vermin, cats and seagulls.

Costs

North Somerset Council will bulk-buy all the new bins through a consortium of bin manufacturers, to ensure the lowest possible unit cost. By buying the bins on such a large scale the council can achieve a much lower price.

The introduction of wheeled bins will save money in the long run. The council will save £15million of council tax payers' money from being spent on landfill costs over the next seven years.

Size

The wheeled bins being used in North Somerset will be 45cm (1' 6" approx.) wide, 75cm (2' 6" approx.) front to back, and 1m 7cm (3' 6" approx.) high with the lid closed.



First impressions

Wheeled bins have been around in England for almost 25 years and are now widely-used by councils across the country. The wheeled bins in North Somerset will be dark grey.

A lot of visitors coming to North Somerset will expect to see wheeled bins because they either have them at home or they've seen them in other areas they've visited. The majority of councils in Devon use at least one wheeled bin, and several use two such as the Torquay and Paignton area.

Seagulls are renowned for ripping open black rubbish sacks, creating street litter problems and health risks, so wheeled bins are particularly popular in seaside areas.

Examples of other councils in tourist destinations who provide their residents with a wheeled bin include those in the Lake District, Brighton & Hove and Eastbourne. Bournemouth, Weymouth & Portland and Great Yarmouth all use two wheeled bins, and Scarborough and Blackpool councils give each household three wheeled bins to sort their waste.

Storage

Only those households with space to store a wheeled bin will be given one. Because wheeled bins are easier to move around than traditional dustbins, the council recommends that households with a back garden or garage use this to store their wheeled bin between collections.

Residents who are considering building a bin store on their property may require planning permission. Please contact the council's Development Control service for more information, dcomments@n-somerset.gov.uk or 01275 888 811.

Special arrangements

Large households Households that have six or more people permanently living there will be entitled to apply for a larger wheeled bin.

The letter you receive about the new waste and recycling collections will have more details about the procedure for requesting a larger wheeled bin. Please wait until you have received this letter before you contact the council.



For more information about the changes to waste and recycling collections go to www.n-somerset.gov.uk/revolution

