

# Refuse and recycling storage for new dwellings

## Planning guidance

**January 2026**



## Refuse and Recycling Storage For New Dwellings

*Supersedes Section 8 of Part 4  
Developers Guide 2008*

### Introduction

This document is intended for those designing new residential development in the borough of Slough. It should be used at an early stage in the design process and before planning applications are submitted. It has been compiled by the Planning Services and the Waste & Environment Team of the council with input from the Highways Section.

The main documents providing technical guidance on the provision and location of waste facilities are the Building Regulations Approved Document H, Drainage and Waste Disposal (2015) Part H6 Solid Waste Disposal and British Standard 5906 (2005).

This information is not intended to replace the above guidance, but gives details of particular waste collection arrangements in the Slough Borough Council area. For the most up to date information or for any queries please contact the Waste & Environment Team by email [recycling@slough.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@slough.gov.uk)

For any Planning related enquiries please email [Planning@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@slough.gov.uk)

Housing layouts will need to allow space for and provide access to refuse bins as in the tables below. Developers will have to provide standard bins for residual waste, recycling and food waste as detailed at the end of this document.

### Standard bin sizes

Bin Size	Height *	Width	Depth
23 litre caddy	405mm	400mm	320mm
140 litre wheeled bin	1100mm	505mm	555mm
180 litre wheeled bin	1100mm	505mm	755mm
240 litre wheeled bin	1100mm	585mm	740mm
360 litre wheeled bin	1100mm	620mm	850mm
1100 litre wheeled bin (Euro bin)	1470mm	1280mm	1160mm

\*Please note all heights are with lids closed. To calculate the maximum height with the lid fully open please add the depth dimension to the height plus 100mm.

## Refuse and Recycling Provision for Houses/Maisonettes

Slough Borough Council operates an “edge of curtilage” refuse and recycling collection policy for these properties. **Residents will therefore have to be able to present their receptacles on the boundary of the property at the nearest point for collection by the waste collection vehicle.**

Refuse and Recycling Capacity and Bin	<p>2 bedroom house or 3 bedroom house (up to and including 5 person household) - 180 litre wheeled bin for residual waste and 240 litre wheeled bin for recycling and 23 litre caddy for food waste.</p> <p>Houses for 6 or more persons - 240 litre wheelie bin for residual waste and 240 litre wheeled bin for recycling. Plus 23 litre food waste caddy.</p> <p>(Additional 240 litre bin for recycling can be purchased by residents)</p> <p>Optional 240 litre wheeled bin for garden waste recycling (where appropriate) - collected fortnightly.</p>
Storage	<p>Properties must have a place to store bins:</p> <p>Rear garden with easy access to bin collection point.</p> <p>Frontage on terraced properties with a screen or enclosure (space for two wheeled bins: residual waste and recycling plus space for food caddy).</p>
Drag Distance for bins - operatives	<p>With a curtilage collection the vehicle aims to stop at the point next to the pavement alongside the bin. The preferred maximum distance between where a wheeled bin is sited and the nearest practicable position at which the collection vehicle can stop must not exceed 15 metres for 2 wheeled bins (British Standard); up to 25m may be acceptable in some circumstances. The gradient between two points should not exceed 1:12 or 8% with a maximum of three steps permitted.</p>
Drag distance for bins - residents	<p>For private drives and courtyard type developments instead of curtilage collection Bin Collection Points can be used provided they are no more than 30m from the house. Collection points must be identified on plan and located clear of driveways or access ways.</p>

## Refuse and Recycling Provision for Flats

Residual Waste Capacity	97 litres per flat (round up to suit bin size)
Recycling Capacity	53 litres per flat (round up to suit bin size)
Food Waste Capacity	12 litres per flat (round up to suit bin size)
Bin Sizes More than 12 flats in a block	Waste is stored in 1100 litre bins. Food waste is stored in 140 litre bins.
Bin Size 6 to 12 flats	Waste is stored in either 1100 litre or 360 litre (plus 140 litre food waste) communal wheeled bins but consider use of individual bins as for 1-6 flats.
Bin Size 5 or fewer flats	<p>Individual wheeled bins for each flat.</p> <p>1 x 180 litre residual and 1 x 240 litre recycling plus 23 litre caddy. (communal 2 wheeled bins could be used in exceptional circumstances as for 6-12 flats)</p>
Distance of storage area from dwelling	The bin storage area should be located within the curtilage of the property and not more than 30m measured horizontally from the dwelling that it serves. This is also the maximum distance at which a refuse chute should be located from a dwelling.
Drag Distance for bins	The distance between where a wheeled bin is sited and the nearest practicable position at which the collection vehicle can stop must not exceed 10 metres for bulk bins.

*table continued over the page*

Access	<p>The path between the bin storage area and the collection vehicle should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be free of steps or kerbs (dropped kerbs can be used; developers are responsible for ensuring dropped kerbs are installed prior to occupation of flats. This applies to private or adopted areas, if the latter approach the Highway Authority well in advance of works.)</li> <li>• Have a smooth continuous surface</li> <li>• Be level, unless the gradient falls away from the chamber in which case it should not exceed 1:12 or 8%</li> <li>• Have a minimum width of 2 metres</li> <li>• Only contain gates wide enough for safe entry/exit of the bin. Incorporate hold open devices on any gates.</li> </ul>
Storage Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free ventilation is essential. Developers should be aware of the possibility of nuisance to residents from flies, smells etc. if sited too close to ventilators or windows.</li> <li>• The height of the store must allow for the bin lid to be fully opened.</li> <li>• Areas should be designed to prevent parked cars or other obstructions blocking doors and the route between the storage area and the collection vehicle (for example "no parking" hatching).</li> <li>• The inside dimensions of the store should allow sufficient space for residents to enter, and for bins to be manoeuvred around one another if necessary.</li> <li>• The interior should be constructed from a solid impervious material suitable for washing down.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The doors from the refuse store must be physically restrained from opening onto the highway. Ideally the gates should slide open or open inwards.</li> <li>• Door locks should be of the standard Fire Brigade type.</li> </ul>
Chutes	Where chutes are used sufficient space should be allowed for full bins to be changed over and stored. Consideration should be given to using a dual chute system - one for waste and one for recyclables, or a mechanised chute system to segregate waste and recyclables.

### Vehicle Size and Manoeuvring

Reversing Distance	The normal maximum permissible reversing distance is 12 metres. The Health and Safety Executive rate reversing as the single highest risk when driving a vehicle and it should therefore be avoided at all cost.
Vehicle Size	10.13m length (9.19m vehicle plus rear bin lift equipment) 2.53m wide 3.50m high
Turning Circle	16.9 metres
Access	Vehicle tracking diagrams must be provided. Swept path analysis based on the above vehicle is required to show ingress / egress and on site turning where proposed.

### Provision of Bins

Developers will need to purchase standard bins to the council's detailed requirements and provide them to each new home. Garden waste bins do not need to be provided by developers. Bins are available from the council's Waste and Environment Team.

E: [recycling@slough.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@slough.gov.uk)

## Quick Reference Table

	Houses **	Flats ****	Bin size	Bin size	Bin size
			12+ flats	6-12 flats ***	1-5 flats
<b>Residual Waste</b>	180 litre bin or 240 litre (6 or more person household) *	97 litre/flat	1100 litre Euro bins	Communal bins 1100 or 360 litre. Or individual bins	Individual wheeled bins 1x 180 litre
<b>Recycling</b>	240 litre bin Optional 360 litre bin (6 or more person household) *	53 litre/flat	1100 litre Euro bins	Communal bins 1100 or 360 litre. Or individual bins	Individual wheeled bins 1x 240 litre
<b>Food waste</b>	23 litre caddy	12 litre/flat	140 litre two wheeled bin	140 litre bin or individual caddy	Individual 23 litre caddy
<b>Dwelling to Store Max. distance</b>	Bin on curtilage	30 m			
<b>Drag Distance Max. (Refuse collector)</b>	15 m preferred 25 m certain circumstances only	10 m			
<b>Dwelling to Bin Collection Point (maximum drag distance for resident)</b>	30 m Certain circumstances only	Not Applicable			
<b>Max. reversing distance</b>	12 m	12 m			

\* - 4 or more bedrooms or large 3 bedroom house.

\*\* - Each house has a minimum of 3 bins (residual, recycling and food); residents can ask for a fourth bin, for garden waste only.

\*\*\* - for blocks of 6 to 12 flats individual wheeled bins should be considered before communal bins.

\*\*\*\* - Round up capacity figure to bin size to be used

### Contact:

recycling@slough.gov.uk

Planning@slough.gov.uk

Web: www.slough.gov.uk

January 2026

Slough Borough Council - Planning Services and Waste & Environment Team.

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If you would like assistance with the translation of the information in this document, please ask an English speaking person to request this by calling 01753 875855.

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Aby uzyskać pomoc odnośnie tłumaczenia instrukcji zawartych w niniejszym dokumencie, należy zwrócić się do osoby mówiącej po angielsku, aby zadzwoniła w tej sprawie pod numer 01753 875855.

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