

Changes to DIY charges at Household Waste Recycling Centres from 31 December 2023

From 31 December, the Government has implemented a change in legislation meaning that small amounts of your own non-household DIY waste can be deposited for free, subject to an authorised booking and the following legislative rules/requirements (Shown in blue) set out below.

The sub-headings for each rule/requirement set out how we will comply with the legislation and how our site teams will operate the legislative changes on site.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Bookings are only required for your free non-household DIY visits; all other visits and materials DO NOT require a booking and are unaffected by these legislative changes. The only exception to this is the already established booking system for asbestos.
- All non-household DIY waste above the thresholds and legislative rules/requirements set out below will remain chargeable.
- Commercial or trade waste is not permitted to be deposited at any of our Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- Where a trades person carries out work at your home, and generates waste, this is commercial waste and therefore is not accepted at any of our Household Waste Recycling Centres.

- **The quantity of non-chargeable waste per visit is no greater than two 50 litre rubble bags or one bulky or fitted item no larger than 2000mm x 750mm x 700mm-**
 - To comply with these changes and keeping with our current adopted approach for DIY wastes, five 20 litre bags will be accepted for free.
 - A plasterboard sheet will be deemed a bulky item, under the legislation, and will be deemed as the equivalent of five 20 litre bags.
 - Other bulky items (such as a bathtub) will be treated in the same way as a single 20 litre bag of waste. This is an enhanced service to residents which goes above the requirements of the legislation.
 - Where mixed loads exceed the threshold, the cheapest items will be accepted first as free. Please see the practical examples below.

- **Households will be restricted to no more than four visits to HWRCs to dispose of this type of waste over a four-week period.**
 - To manage this new legislative approach and prevent misuse of the system, households will need to prebook their free deposit of non-household DIY waste across all sites.
 - Each household will be entitled to one free booking every rolling seven-day period.

Example: if for example you book for a Tuesday your next free visit will be the following Tuesday.

- Residents will be able to bring non-household DIY waste more often than this without a booking, however, this would be fully chargeable at the published rates.
- **The waste produced by householders while carrying out small-scale construction or demolition works at their home**
 - The change in legislation is aimed at very small amounts of DIY waste produced by a householder as part of home improvements they are carrying out themselves and would not justify the use of skip or commercial company to collect the waste provided by this work.
- **The waste does not arise from activities that generate an income for the person who carried them out (i.e. is not trade waste)**
 - If a tradesperson carries out the work and produces the waste, it is not considered household DIY waste it is trade waste.

CONTINUED CHARGES

The Government's legislative changes mean any waste above these thresholds remains as now classified as industrial waste and will continue to incur charges. Also, visits over and above the permitted and booked free visits will also be classed as industrial waste and incur full charges at the advertised rates.

Please note that tyres are not included in this legislative change and remain fully chargeable at the advertised rates, with a maximum of 4 tyres being accepted.

Examples

- 5 items bath, sink, toilet, cistern and one bag of tiles, all items are free.
- 8 * 20 litre bags, 4 with rubble in and 4 with plasterboard:
 - the four rubble bags would be accepted free of charge and one plasterboard bag to make up the 5 free bags. The remaining 3 bags of plasterboard would be charged at the prevailing rate.
- A bath, toilet, sink and 3 bags of tiles (Classed as rubble)
 - All items are the same price so 5 items would be free, and the final item charged for.
- 3 bags of rubble and 1 sheet of plasterboard.
 - 3 bags of rubble will be free, but the plasterboard sheet would be chargeable.
- 3 sheets of plasterboard
 - 1 sheet of plasterboard would be free the remaining 2 will be chargeable.
- 3 bags of plasterboard and 1 sheet of plasterboard.
 - 3 bags of plasterboard would be free, and the sheet of plasterboard would be chargeable.
- More than 1 visit in 7 days with DIY wastes.
 - All DIY materials on subsequent visits will be fully chargeable at the advertised rates.
- More than 4 visits in 4 weeks with DIY wastes.

- All DIY materials on subsequent visits will be fully chargeable at the advertised rates.

Frequently asked questions

What is changing?

The Government have changed the legal classification of small amounts of DIY wastes from domestic properties from Industrial Waste to Household Waste.

This means members of the public can now deposit small amounts of household DIY waste at our HWRCs for free, subject to the legislation rules/requirements listed on our website and on sites.

How much DIY waste can I dispose of for free?

Each household is entitled to five regular chargeable items of DIY waste for free, or one sheet of plasterboard (where sites accept these) once every seven days.

DIY wastes above this limit or delivered more often than once every 7 days will remain chargeable at the advertised rates.

How often can I visit my HWRC to dispose of DIY waste for free?

You will be required to pre book your free visits with DIY waste (from 2nd January 2024). Households can visit once every seven days for the disposal of up to five regular chargeable items of DIY waste for free, or one sheet of plasterboard (where sites accept these) with a booking.

DIY wastes above this limit or delivered more often than once every 7 days will be accepted but will be chargeable at the advertised rates.

Can I still be charged for disposing of some DIY waste?

Yes. Quantities above the free thresholds (above) will be chargeable at the advertised rates. Alternatively, you should consider hiring a skip or commercial contractor to remove the waste from your home.

Tyres are also not included in this legislative change and remain fully chargeable at the advertised rates with a maximum of 4 tyres being accepted.