

PS: ARTICLE FROM THE TELEGRAPH 30/11/24 FURTHER REINFORCING
FUTURE NEED FOR SUFFICIENT BIN STORAGE AREA.

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News

Four bin minimum for household recycling

Environment Secretary
vows to end recycling
'Wild West' with new rules
taking effect next March

By Emma Gatten
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

HOUSEHOLDS will be given a minimum of four bins in new council guidance intended to boost recycling rates.

Councils will have to collect paper and card separate from other recycling to avoid contamination that can lead to them being thrown into landfill.

Containers will also be provided for black bin waste and food waste, but councils can add more containers if

they deem it best for local needs. The changes are part of plans to simplify recycling across councils in an effort to increase flatlining recycling rates from around 45 per cent to 65 per cent by 2035.

Plans had been introduced under the previous Government to push councils to separate rubbish into seven bins as the default, unless they applied for an exemption.

Rishi Sunak had vowed to end the seven-bin rule, but the changes were never brought in while his Government was in power.

Under the new rules all councils will have to collect the same rubbish streams, which will include film plastic from 2027.

The waste industry had pushed for

plastic, paper and card, glass, and metal, as well as food and garden waste to be collected in separate containers because it makes rubbish easier to recycle at a processing plant.

Households have been expected to separate their rubbish into increasingly specific streams in recent years, with some councils collecting in as many as nine or 10 different containers.

The Lib Dem-controlled Cotswold District Council has the highest number of bins available to households among all councils in England, with seven as default, and an additional three optional.

Alongside their regular rubbish, residents are asked to separate their glass, paper, cardboard and other mixed recycling and have the option to recycle gar-

den waste, small electrical items, textiles and household batteries in separate containers.

The Government expects that councils will move toward reducing their bin-count to the default of four, but

Paper and card are particularly susceptible to contamination from other waste, such as liquids

have left it up to local authorities to decide. Councils will also be able to apply for an exemption to allow them to collect all recycling in the same bin, if they can prove it is not technically or economically practicable.

Mixing paper and card with other recycling risks them becoming unsuitable for reuse if liquids leak out and contaminate the material.

Under the updated residential guidance coming into force on March 31 2026, all waste authorities should provide weekly food refuse collections to allow people to "dispose of odorous organic waste frequently".

Steve Reed, the Environment Secretary, said the Government was "ending the Wild West and introducing a streamlined approach to recycling to end the postcode lottery, simplify bin collections and clean up our streets for good."

He said the changes would "not lead to the proliferation of bins but will ensure the same set of materials are collected everywhere in England."

Patrick Brighty from industry body the Environmental Services Association, said the changes were "unlikely to result in a paradigm shift in the number or variety of waste containers councils put out for collection. However, he added: "It does simplify the default expectations for councils, who will have a bit more flexibility in their service choices and less red tape to cut through."

He added: "Paper and card are particularly susceptible to contamination from other waste, such as liquids, which can make them unsuitable for end markets."

"Maintaining separate collection of paper and card where practicable is a sensible decision which should help increase recycling performance."



Sniffer dog to save woodland by rooting out diseased trees

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SNIFFER dog that can detect diseased trees has been trained by the Government for the first time to try to save the British woodland from infection.

Ivor, a six-year-old cocker spaniel and Labrador cross called a Spanador, has been trained to smell the disease *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Ramorum affects more than 100 different plant species and spreads in water to infect and destroy trees. It is a water-loving microorganism which is