

Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service

Brown Bin - Frequently Asked Questions

Householders *do not* need a Garden Waste Permit to recycle cooked and uncooked food waste in the brown bin. However, to recycle garden waste in the brown bin along with food waste, you need to buy an annual Garden Waste Permit. Perth & Kinross Council's annual charge for collecting garden waste from the kerbside in 2021/22 is £40.

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Why the Garden Waste Permits were introduced?

When the Garden Waste Service was first introduced to householders in the late 1990s it was a chargeable service. It was not until 2004 due to funding through the Scottish Executives Strategic Waste Fund that the service was able to be expanded and be offered free of charge to the majority of Perth and Kinross residents.

In the current economic climate, Councils must make difficult financial decisions and a chargeable garden waste service was re-introduced in Perth & Kinross from 1 April 2018.

Charging for the collection of garden waste is common practice at Scottish Councils.

Why PKC charges for garden waste but not food waste?

Garden waste collections are not a statutory service for Councils to provide, unlike residual waste, dry recyclables and food waste in urban areas.

The Council is under economic pressures and not everyone uses or have access to the garden waste collections. Making the service self-funding will enable the service to continue for only those who use it. As a non-essential, opt-in service, it will not be paid for by your Council Tax. At £40 per permit the service is still subsidised by the Council.

Councils have the statutory requirement to collect food waste in urban areas and this service is paid through your Council Tax.

Why has the price increased this year?

The chargeable garden waste service for 2021/22 will rise to £40. This was agreed as part of the 2021/22 provisional budget. The service is still subsidised by the Council.

What can I recycle in my brown bin?

Cooked and uncooked food waste can be recycled in your brown bin without a permit. You can use a compostable liner or newspaper to wrap food waste. Alternatively you can place food waste loose in the bin.

What is food waste? Food waste includes waste from preparing meals, plate scrapings and leftovers, out of date food, any food items produced from a household garden, dairy, eggs, meat bones and fish bones, tea bags, coffee grounds, fruit, vegetables, bread, cakes, pastries, rice and pasta. Visit [the Council's information page](#) to check all the types of food waste that you can recycle in your brown bin.

The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 defines food waste as: (7B) "Food waste" means controlled waste that was at any time food intended for human consumption (even if of no nutritional value), and includes biodegradable waste produced as consequence of the processing or preparation of food, but does not include drink."

Garden waste can be recycled in your brown bin but you will need to buy a Garden Waste Permit.

What is garden waste? Garden waste includes grass cuttings, small twigs and branches, leaves, cut flowers and houseplants, weeds, hedge cuttings, sawdust, bark and hay. For more information on garden waste recycling in your brown bin please visit the Council's [information page](#).

N.B. Coal ash is **not** accepted in brown bins (even with a Garden Waste Permit). Wood ash is accepted (**with a Garden Waste Permit**) but should be cold when added to the bin.

How often will my brown bin be emptied?

There will be no change to the brown bin collection day. Households will continue to receive uplifts on a fortnightly frequency. Brown bins displaying a valid garden waste permit will be emptied by the same crew and vehicle collecting food waste from households not participating in the garden waste collection service.

Collections will occur every two weeks on the scheduled uplift day, except over the Christmas and New Year period where one collection date will be suspended.

To check the waste and recycling collections your household is eligible for, or to view, print or download your collection calendar(s), please use the PKC household bin collection date finder <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/bindates>.

How much is a garden waste permit?

The chargeable garden waste service for 2021-22 will rise to £40. This was agreed as part of the 2021/22 provisional budget. An annual permit is needed for each bin presented containing garden waste. Households can have a maximum of 2 brown bins per property. Once paid, the householder will receive a permit which is to be attached to the back of the bin to indicate to collection crews to uplift the bin. If bins are presented containing garden waste, without a valid permit, they will not be emptied. The £40 charge applies regardless of what point in the year the permit is issued, all permits issued will expire on the 31st March 2022.

How many brown bins (and Permits) can I have?

As per our Waste and Recycling Bin Policy, each eligible household may have up to two brown bins. You can view a copy of this policy at www.pkc.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

A permit is required for each bin being used for garden waste. Some households may choose to purchase one permit for a brown bin used for garden waste and retain a second brown bin without a permit for food waste only. **If a brown bin contains garden waste but doesn't have a Garden Waste Permit, it will not be emptied.**

When does the 2021/22 service start?

Collection crews will only empty brown bins containing garden waste if they display a valid garden waste permit. PKC's Waste Services Team will post a reminder to households currently subscribed to the 2020/21 service in January 2021 that the garden waste permit is due for renewal and with details of how to apply. The letter will be posted in batches throughout January, so different areas of Perth and Kinross will receive the mailing at different times in January. A copy of this letter will be saved on www.pkc.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Service information and permit payment system will be available online from 11 January 2021.

Who can participate in the Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service?

Not all householders in Perth & Kinross have access to the Food & Garden Waste Collection Service due to the costs associated with operating the service over such a large geographical area. The Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service will only be available to households who currently receive a brown bin service.

Updated January 2021

I.e. Only households who are currently in a three bin collection service area (green, blue and brown wheeled bins) will be eligible to participate in the Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service. To check what waste and recycling collections your household is eligible for; please use our household collection date finder at www.pkc.gov.uk/bindates

I don't currently have a brown bin, can I request one?

To check the waste and recycling collections that your household receives and to see if you are eligible for a brown bin please use our household collection date finder [at www.pkc.gov.uk/bindates](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/bindates).

You can then order a brown bin via <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> or by telephoning the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476.

If the brown bin is used for food waste only then a permit is not required. If you would like to participate in the Garden Waste Collection Service please ensure you receive delivery of the brown bin before applying for your garden waste permit.

For more details about applying for a garden waste permit, see '[How do I apply and pay for a permit for my home?](#)'

Can I participate in the Garden Waste Collection Service if I have an assisted lift?

If you are currently registered to receive an assisted lift for a brown bin and would like to participate in the garden waste service then you will need to buy a garden waste permit.

If you currently receive an assisted lift for green and blue bins, but don't currently have a brown bin and would like to participate in the garden waste collection service then you will need to order a brown bin via <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> or by telephoning the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476 and then inform the Waste Services Team that you will require an assisted lift for your new brown bin.

You can continue to have an assisted lift of your brown bin **for food waste only** without purchasing a garden waste permit.

You can find your collection calendars on the household collection date finder at www.pkc.gov.uk/bindates

If you receive an assisted pink sack lift we will not be able to assist you with a brown bin collection.

What happens to my brown bin if I don't opt in to the service?

Should you not wish to buy a permit for the Garden Waste Collection Service you will still be required to retain your brown bin for food waste collections at the property. I.e. The brown bin belongs to your property and should not be removed.

Households with a surplus *second* brown bin can request its removal via <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> or by telephoning the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476. These bins will either be reused or recycled, depending on their condition.

How do I apply and pay for a permit for my home?

The annual charge per household for the collection of garden waste in 2021/22 is £40 per bin. The permit will be valid from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and will be personalised to your home address and permits are on sale from 11th January 2021.

- You can easily apply and pay for your Permit online at <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> using a debit or credit card.

- If you require assistance with your online application, you can call the Council’s Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476 where an advisor will help you. (You will need a credit or debit card).

How do I apply for a Permit for a brown bin which isn’t at my home?

Only domestically rated properties are eligible for the Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service. The table below details how to apply for a Permit for a brown bin which isn’t at your home:

Location of Brown Bin	How to Order a Garden Waste Permit
The Holiday Let that I rent to others	Please contact the Commercial Team by phoning 01738 476476 or emailing CommercialWasteTeam@pkc.gov.uk with details of this property, your contact details and the number of Permits required for the property.
My Second Home	If you are paying Council Tax on the second property, you are also eligible to buy up to two Garden Waste Permits via https://my.pkc.gov.uk/
My local Club	Please contact the Commercial Team by phoning 01738 476476 or emailing CommercialWasteTeam@pkc.gov.uk with details of this property, your contact details and the number of bins required. They will provide you with a quote for a commercial service.
My Village Hall / Church Hall / Place of Worship	<p>You can buy a garden waste permit either by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting www.pkc.gov.uk/gardenwaste and following the link to MyPKC, then clicking on the ‘Non domestic property’ button, selecting the address of your Community Building in the drop down list and making the payment for the permit using a credit or debit card <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending a cheque (payable to Perth & Kinross Council, for £40 per brown bin, posted to Pullar House, 35, Kinnoull Street, Perth PH1 5GD). On the back of the cheque please detail the name and address of the village/community hall or church which you would like to purchase a permit for. Along with your cheque please detail a postal address where the permit is to be posted and a contact name and phone number/email in case of any problems.

Can I transfer a permit to a different property if I move home?

Each property that has applied for a garden waste permit will be provided with a personalised permit that will be required to be fixed to the back of the brown bin. The personalised permit will detail the address of the property and will help the bin crew to identify who has paid for the Garden Waste Collection Service. The permit will be non-transferable and will only be valid when presented at the address detailed on the permit.

Wheelie bins remain the property of Perth & Kinross Council and should not be removed from a property without authorisation from a Council Waste Services Officer.

Should you move into a property that already has a brown bin(s) with a valid garden waste permit you can continue to use the bin for garden waste. Should your new address not have a valid permit and you wish to recycle your garden waste in the brown bin then you will be required to purchase a permit at www.pkc.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Please note that if you move into a property and inherit the previous occupant’s garden waste, you can:

- Buy an annual Garden Waste Permit and present this waste on the first collection

Or, if you only intend to use your brown bin for food waste in the year ahead:

- You can contact the Council (by emailing recycle@pkc.gov.uk or telephoning 01738 476476) to request a one-off chargeable Bulky Uplift for the garden waste.
- You can take the garden waste to any PKC Recycling Centre for recycling free of charge, www.pkc.gov.uk/recyclingcentres (although please note that if you are hiring a van or using a trailer, you will need a Recycling Centre Permit: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/recyclingpermits>)

Are there any concessions or discounts?

No discounts or concessions are available for the garden waste permit (such as to charities or means-tested households). Regardless of when the permit is purchased, the £40 annual charge will apply.

I've tried to apply for a permit but my address is not recognised

If you've tried to apply for a permit but your address is not recognised, please first try to enter the postcode and then choose the address from the drop-down list. The system is sensitive to what is manually entered so the address may not appear exactly as you have typed it. If you continue to have problems with the address recognition, please contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476 or email recycle@pkc.gov.uk N.B. The permit details the address where the bin is used so that it is only valid when present in this location. This prevents the bin from being stolen and used by someone else.

I have a brown bin but the system inaccurately says that I'm not on a garden waste route

If you already have a brown bin, but the system will not allow you to buy a permit because it believes that you are not on a garden waste route, please contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476 or email recycle@pkc.gov.uk with details of your address. We will endeavour to update the system so that you are able to buy a garden waste permit.

I haven't received my permit and it's been more than 21 days since I ordered it

Please note, once the payment has been processed, it will take up to 21 days to print the personalised permit for your bin and then post it to your home. When the payment has been received successfully, you will receive a confirmation email. If you've ordered your permit after the deadline of 1st March 2021, this confirmation email can be printed and attached with sticky tape temporarily to your bin as proof of payment so that you don't miss your next collection whilst waiting for your permit.

If it has been more than 21 days since you ordered your permit and you received the email confirmation but you have still not received the permit through the post, please request a replacement permit via <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> or telephone the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476.

How will my collection crew know I have paid for garden waste to be collected?

Once payment has been received, your permit will be posted out and needs to be attached to the back of your brown bin below the handles. Each permit will detail the property address for which the permit was purchased.

If you have ordered your Permit(s) after the 1st March 2021 deadline, you can sticky tape the email receipt to the back of bin as proof of payment for one collection – it takes up to 21 days for the Permit to arrive in the post.

Collection crews will only empty garden waste from brown bins which display a valid garden waste permit. A permit is not required for brown bins containing only food waste.

What happens if I have paid for a permit and my brown bin collection is missed?

No refunds or part refunds will be given for missed collections.

Missed collections will be dealt with as per our Waste and Recycling Bin Policy which can be found at www.pkc.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Collection errors or other conditions beyond the Council's control can result in service disruption or missed collections. The Council shall not be liable to the Customer for failure to perform the Services, however in such circumstance the Council will aim to return to empty your bin within 48 hours from the original collection date, subject to the householder contacting the Council (online through <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> or by telephoning the Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476). The householder should leave their wheeled bin out at the kerbside for 48 hours after the time of normal collection and the Council will endeavour to return and empty the bin. If wheeled bins are not collected within this time, householders are advised to please return the bin(s) to their regular storage area and re-present on the next scheduled collection day for uplift, conditions permitting.

If the contents of wheeled bins are not uplifted due to waste being tightly lodged or frozen, the contents will not be collected until the next scheduled collection day. The householder must ensure that the waste is freed or dislodged before re-presenting.

Can I buy a permit at any point throughout the year?

Householders wishing to participate in the Garden Waste Collection Service from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 can purchase a permit up until December 2021. The one off annual charge of £40 per permit will apply regardless of when in the year the permit is purchased; all permits will expire on 31 March 2022. Please be aware that it may take up to 21 days for a permit to be delivered.

Can I cancel a permit?

Permits can be cancelled within 14 days of purchase to receive a full refund, thereafter no refunds or part refunds will be given.

To exercise the right to cancel within the 14 day period, you must inform the Council of your decision to cancel the contract by means of a clear statement made either using the online cancellation process on <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> or by letter sent by post to: Perth & Kinross Council, Community Waste Team, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth PH1 5GD before the cancellation period has expired.

If a permit has been issued prior to the cancellation notice request being received by the Council, the householder will be liable for the reasonable costs incurred in returning the permit to the Council. In this instance, a refund will be issued upon receipt of the returned permit.

Can I share a brown bin with my neighbour?

If you live in a block of flats and have a communal garden, or if you want to share a brown bin with your neighbour(s) to recycle garden waste, then you will require a garden waste permit. To share a brown bin, you would only be required to purchase one garden waste permit per bin, however you will have to come to a private agreement with your neighbour(s) regarding who will apply and make payment for the service. The address of the payee will be printed on the garden waste permit which will be attached to the brown bin.

Each property can have a maximum of 2 brown bins. Should you require an additional brown bin then you can order one via <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/> or by telephoning the Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476.

What happens to collections over the festive period?

You can view, download or print your bin collection calendars at www.pkc.gov.uk/bindates. However, one brown bin collection is suspended over the festive period. Details of any changes to the festive uplift schedule will be available in December 2021 on the Council webpage www.pkc.gov.uk/recycle.

What will happen to bins that contain garden waste presented without a permit?

Brown bins which contain garden waste but which do not display a garden waste permit will not be emptied. These bins will be tagged by collection crews and the householder who has presented the bin will be required to remove the garden waste and re-present food waste only on the next scheduled collection day, to enable the bin to be emptied. Alternatively, the householder can buy a Garden Waste Permit which, once displayed on the bin, will enable it to be emptied.

How will I stop residents who have not paid for the service placing garden waste in my bin?

Householders are responsible for the waste and recycling that is contained in their bins and will be required to make arrangements to remove any contamination identified. Please store your bin securely between collections, a lock can be added to the bin to prevent unauthorised usage between collections. If you know that someone is disposing of their garden waste in your bin, you are encouraged to discuss the issue directly with them. However, if you do not feel comfortable advising them not to use your bin then you can contact PKC's Waste Services Team via the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476 or by emailing recycle@pkc.gov.uk and a member of staff will investigate.

What happens if I present my brown bin containing the wrong material?

No materials, other than those specified by the Council, will be accepted in brown-lidded wheeled recycling bins. Full details of accepted items are available on the council webpages at www.pkc.gov.uk/gardenwaste or obtainable by contacting the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 476476 to request a printed copy of the information.

The Council reserves the right not to empty wheeled bins that are: suspected of containing incorrect materials; of excessive weight; in a dangerous condition; or which may be detrimental to the health and safety of its staff. It shall be solely for the Council to determine if any bin meets any of the above criteria.

Where wheeled recycling bins are contaminated, the Council will attach a bin hanger to the wheeled bin which will identify that the wheeled bin has not been collected due to contamination/incorrect presentation.

Householders shall be responsible for the waste and recycling that is contained within the bins and will be required to make arrangements to remove any contamination identified. If all contamination is removed, the wheeled bin will be emptied on the next scheduled collection day.

Residents can request an uplift of contaminated brown bins by the Council, however this will be a chargeable service and needs to be requested via the Customer Service Centre by emailing recycle@pkc.gov.uk or telephoning 01738 476476.

In the event that repeated contamination of wheeled recycling bins occurs, the Council reserves the right to withdraw the recycling service by giving immediate written notice and arranging removal of the brown bin(s). No refunds will be available for any collections missed while the service has been withdrawn.

What can I do with my garden waste if I choose not to buy a permit?

- Garden waste can be disposed of free of charge at any PKC Recycling Centres. You can locate your nearest Recycling Centre using the [‘find my nearest’](#) search. Please note that the Recycling Centre can only be accessed by vehicle – not on a bicycle or on foot.
- Grass can be cut and left as this will break down and fertilise the growing grass underneath.
- Leaves can be gathered to make leaf mulch for using on the garden next year.
- If you are generating other garden waste you may want to try home composting. You can find lots of information to get you started at www.pkc.gov.uk/composting.

If you pay a private contractor to undertake gardening work, you can request that they remove the garden waste. Please be aware that this may incur a charge.

Please note that fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste (including garden waste) and if found doing this you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of up to £200, or even taken to court for fines of up to £40,000 or imprisonment.

It is also an offense to dispose of domestic waste in a way likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. This would include the burning of waste that is likely to create excessive smoke or noxious fumes. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, if smoke from the burning of domestic/household waste causes a nuisance to neighbouring properties and smoke is affecting their enjoyment of their property – e.g. if they cannot sit in their garden, put washing out or must keep windows closed, an Abatement notice could be served requiring that the smoke nuisance is abated. Failure to comply with requirements of the notice can result in a fine of up to £5,000 upon summary conviction in the Sherriff’s Court together with a further fine of up to £500 for each day the nuisance continues. It is worth noting that anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road also faces a fine if it endangers traffic or causes injuries.

I only use my brown bin for clearing up the Council’s leaves/recycling the Council’s grass cuttings

Please note that leaves can be bagged up (in black sacks with holes in) to make leaf mould for the garden for next year.

Similarly, grass cuttings can be left on the grass as a mulch, which feeds the lawn and especially helps the lawn in times of drought.

Tree owners (such as the Council) are not required to clear fallen leaves from neighbouring properties. The responsibility sits with the persons onto whose property the leaves fall. Please note that if fallen leaves are returned to the property where the tree is sited, this can technically be classified as fly-tipping. However, broken/trimmed branches and fallen fruit can legally be returned to the tree owner.

Has there been any increase in fly-tipping since the permit was introduced?

PKC has not seen an increase in fly-tipping since the permits were introduced and householders are reminded that:

- Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of waste and if found doing so you could be issued with a fixed penalty fine of up to £200 or if taken to court a fine of up to £40,000 or imprisonment.
- It is an offence to dispose of domestic waste in a way likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. In practice you should not burn waste that is likely to create excessive smoke or noxious fumes.
- Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, if smoke from the burning of domestic/household waste causes a nuisance to neighbouring properties and smoke is affecting their enjoyment of their property – e.g. if they cannot sit in their garden, put washing out or must keep windows closed, an Abatement notice could be served requiring that the smoke nuisance is abated. Failure to comply with the requirements of the notice can result in a fine of up to £5,000 upon summary conviction in the Sherriff's Court together with a further fine of up to £500 for each day the nuisance continues.
- Anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road faces a fine if it endangers traffic or causes injuries.

Have you spotted fly-tipping in your area? Fly-tipping is an environmental crime and you can report any issues in your area via MyPKC (<https://my.pkc.gov.uk/en>) and track the response. PKC has started to use an in-house TotalMobile phone application to record fly-tipping incidents. Gathered data will then be sent daily to the FlyMapper database (owned by Zero Waste Scotland). This process will play a critical role in reporting and managing fly-tipping incidents and it combines field recording of incidents via a mobile application and allows the management of the data through a central database which is shared by multiple organisations such as Local Authorities, SEPA and Police Scotland.

To make sure the gathered data is used in the best possible way, a decision was made to re-instate the Fly-tipping Forum. Perth & Kinross Council - as a leader - invite key stakeholders affected by fly-tipping plus organisations responsible for its investigation and disposal. The meetings aim to share intelligence, standardise the ways of recording and reacting to fly-tipping as well as working together to find ways of tackling this growing problem more effectively.