

## Food waste service FAQs

### **What items are accepted in the food waste collection?**

All types of food waste without their packaging will be accepted in the new caddy for collection including:

- ✓ All uneaten food and plate scrapings
- ✓ Mouldy or out of date food including ready meals- please remove the packaging
- ✓ Fruit and vegetable peelings
- ✓ Limp and mouldy salads, vegetables, fruit and herbs
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Bread, pastries and cake
- ✓ Dairy products including cheese, eggs and egg shells
- ✓ Rice, pasta and beans (raw and cooked)
- ✓ Meat, fish and bones (raw and cooked) including chicken carcasses, fish skin and out of date meat (unpackaged)

### **How often will the food waste caddy be collected?**

The new food waste collection service is a weekly collection. Please place our caddy out for collection alongside your purple bin one week and your grey recycling bin the following week.

### **If I've grown something in the garden e.g. apples is it food waste or garden waste?**

Fruit and veg grown in a garden such as windfall fruit or the squash plant is classed as garden waste and can go in your brown wheelie bin, however anything you bring inside to the kitchen becomes food waste and should go into your brown outdoor caddy.

### **Why is it important to recycle food waste separately using the new food waste collection service?**

Although both the garden waste and the separate food waste will continue to be sent to Cumberlow Green to be processed, the goal is for there to be no food waste mixed with the garden waste so they can be processed in different ways.

Food will continue to be processed by 'in vessel' Composting. This material falls under the Animal By Product Regulations and must be tipped indoors in the barn and is processed in 'in vessel' clamps where oxygen is blown through and it must reach 65-80°C for a minimum of 4 days to be sanitised. However the pure green garden waste which goes to Cumberlow is tipped in an outside bay and is open windrow composted. This is what we hope will be able to happen to your garden waste once there is not food waste contaminating the garden waste. Therefore please place all food waste in the brown outdoor food caddy for collection.

### **I have not received a new food waste caddy- should I have got one?**

The new separate food collection from the caddy only applies to properties if you currently place food waste in your own brown wheelie bin mixed with garden waste. If you live in a flat

or have a communal food waste only bin you should not receive a new caddy, please continue to place your food waste in your food waste only bin. If we have delivered you a caddy in error, please let us know.

### **Do I need to have the food waste caddy if I compost my food waste at home?**

Whilst you can compost at home a significant amount of food waste, some items such as meat, fish and dairy should not be composted at home, however they can be composted in a commercial composting system so even if you do compost at home, it is worth having a food waste caddy to place these items in for recycling. Your caddy will be emptied if it is put out for collection with only a few tea bags or a chicken carcass in it.

### **Can I have an assisted collection for the food waste caddy?**

Yes- if you currently receive our collect and return service, this will also now include your brown outdoor food caddy. If you don't currently have an assisted collection and you would like one then please apply online

### **The food caddy is not big enough for all the food waste my family produces**

The caddy is 23L capacity and can fit 4-5 bags of food waste per week and is collected weekly. If you are producing more food waste than can fit into your weekly caddy collection, you should look at the food you are wasting to ensure that most of it is 'unavoidable' food waste such as bones, tea bags and fruit and veg peelings. If your caddy is full of avoidable food waste please visit our reducing food waste page: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/waste-and-recycling/reduce-and-reuse/reducing-food-waste> . If you find it is full of unavoidable food waste we will consider applications for additional food waste recycling capacity and if approved you will be issued with a second food waste caddy for collection.