

# Waste management in Stockholm

Please note! This information only applies to management of waste from households in Stockholm. Other regulations apply for companies and organisations. For more information please contact our customer service department by email to [kundservice-avfall@tk.stockholm.se](mailto:kundservice-avfall@tk.stockholm.se) or by phone to +46 (0)8-508-465 40.



## Rules and regulations

Waste management is regulated at both national and municipal levels. At national level, the most important regulations are the Environmental Code, the Waste Act and the ordinances on producer responsibility. These are complemented by several other ordinances and laws, which regulate specific types of waste, transport, waste treatment, and other relevant areas. At a municipal level, local waste management is regulated by the local bylaws on waste collection and disposal for Stockholm municipality, and waste collection fees.

## Domestic waste

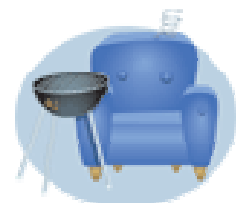
Domestic waste – what you put in the bin under the sink – is collected by a contractor, whose services are hired by the City of Stockholm. Domestic waste is collected from around 55,000 collection points, with approximately 65,000 collections being carried out each week. To collect Stockholm's domestic waste, 75 refuse collection vehicles are required, along with around 150 collection workers, each one collecting about 5 tonnes of waste every day.



Domestic waste is used for energy recovery at the Högdalen plant in southern Stockholm. The combustion process produces both heating and electricity. The residual products of the combustion process are slag and ashes. The slag is recycled and the ashes are disposed of in a landfill site.

## Bulky waste

Bulky waste is waste which arises in a household, but which cannot be placed in a refuse bag because of its size, weight or the nature of the material – items such as furniture, household utensils and tools.



If you live in an apartment block, you place your bulky waste in the building's bulky waste room. Follow the waste separation instructions of the owner of the building – these instructions exist in order to facilitate environmentally sound and cost-effective waste management. If there is no bulky waste room, the owner of the building can, for a fee, order bulky waste collection from one of the contractors hired and approved by the City of Stockholm. The same applies to one and two household dwellings.

There are five recycling centres in Stockholm – Bromma, Lövsta, Vantör, Vanadisberget and Östberga – where households can dispose of their bulky waste free of charge.

## **Waste from electrical and electronic equipment**

The term waste from electrical and electronic equipment applies to items which require a plug or batteries to function, such as computers, ovens, mobile phones, toys and hairdryers. Light bulbs, fluorescent tubes and low energy bulbs are also included in this category.



In apartment blocks there is often a special area for waste from electrical and electronic equipment in the bulky waste room. If you are not able to dispose of waste from electrical and electronic equipment in the bulky waste room, the owner of your building can, for a fee, order a special collection for waste from electrical and electronic equipment.

Households can take their waste from electrical and electronic equipment to one of the five recycling centres in the city or the mobile hazardous waste collection point (only waste items up to the size of a microwave oven are accepted at the mobile collection point).

## **Hazardous waste**

Hazardous waste constitutes a danger to people and the environment and should never be placed in household waste or poured down the drain. There are examples of hazardous waste in every home: glue, paint, cleaning products and household chemicals. Products marked with labels such as “Flammable”, “Injurious to health”, or “Keep out of the reach of children” often contain harmful substances.

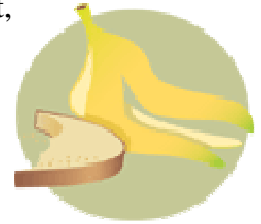


Households can take such items to the hazardous waste collection points in Stockholm. These are situated beside some petrol stations and at the recycling centres. These collection points are then emptied and managed by the contractors hired by the City of Stockholm. There is also a mobile hazardous waste collection, which deals with hazardous waste free of charge.

Some paint dealers take back the type of products that they sell. Many shops, petrol stations and other outlets that sell batteries have a collection point for used batteries. There are usually boxes for batteries at the recycling collection points for packaging and newspapers too. The Swedish pharmacy chain, Apoteket, accepts old and left-over medications. NB. This service is not available at 'Apoteket Shop', only at pharmacy branches.

## **Food waste**

Food waste consists of discarded food items such as vegetables, fruit, bread, meat, fish and poultry. It can be separated and recycled in different ways. Many restaurants and other food-based industries, as well as some houses and apartment blocks, separate their food waste. Bins for food waste intended for biological treatment are available from the City of Stockholm. A year's supply of corn starch bags and a special bag-holder are also available to individual households.



## **How waste management is paid for**

Waste management in Stockholm is financed by a waste collection fee. The fee is outlined in the waste tariff, which is passed by Stockholm City Council. The waste collection fee paid by the owner of each building covers collection and treatment of domestic waste and administration and information regarding waste management in the city. Payment of this fee also allows households to take bulky waste, electrical and electronic waste and hazardous waste to the various collection systems: recycling centres, the recycling boat, and permanent and mobile hazardous waste collection points.

## **Producer responsibility**

The Swedish Government has decided that every company that produces, imports, fills or sells packaging or packaged goods must take responsibility for the existence of a collection system where their end customers can dispose of packaging for recycling. This is called producer responsibility. The same applies to newspapers and waste paper. Those who produce or import newsprint and who print or import newspapers and magazines have responsibility for collection and recycling of newsprint. Packaging and newspapers are two of the first product groups where producer responsibility has been introduced. They constitute a major proportion of domestic waste and are relatively easy to separate from other waste. The producers of packaging and newspapers have created five material companies which cooperate under the name "The Packaging and Newspaper Collection Service" (FTIAB). All operations are managed on a non-profit basis.

## Packaging and newspapers

Packaging and newspapers are perfect for recycling, and should be separated out from general domestic waste. Packaging and newspapers can then be left at one of around 250 recycling collection points which can be found all over the city. For more information on your nearest recycling collection point, or to comment on management and emptying of these facilities, contact the Packaging and Newspaper Collection Service (FTIAB) on +46 (0)200-88 03 11 or see [www.ftiab.se](http://www.ftiab.se). In some apartment blocks it is possible to take waste packaging to a recycling room or similar facility. Follow the instructions of the owner of the building – these instructions exist in order to achieve environmentally sound and cost-effective waste management.



### A few tips:

- Rinse out empty packaging with a little water if necessary - you could use the dishwasher before you empty it out.
- Dismantle packaging that is made up of different materials. If it is not possible to separate the materials, classify each item according to the dominant material (by weight).
- Place smaller items of packaging inside larger ones and flatten milk and juice containers so that they take up less space in your home and in the container at the recycling collection point.
- Remove hard lids and corks from plastic packaging and place everything in the container for hard plastic.
- Recycling collection points are only for packaging and newspapers. Other items made of metal, plastic and glass, such as saucepans, toys, furniture, drinking glasses and crockery, is counted as bulky waste and can be left at a recycling centre or in the bulky waste room in your apartment block.



## Recycling options

- **Recycling centre**

Staffed facility where individuals can take bulky waste, electrical and electronic waste, and hazardous waste, free of charge. There are five of these in the City of Stockholm.



- **Hazardous waste collection point**

Places where households can dispose of hazardous waste. These are situated at some petrol stations and at recycling centres.

- **Mobile hazardous waste collection point**

A lorry that stops at points all over Stockholm, at scheduled times, to collect hazardous waste and small electrical and electronic items from individual households.



- **Recycling collection point for packaging and newspapers**

A row of containers where individual households can dispose of packaging and newspapers. There are around 250 situated all over Stockholm.



## **5 tonnes of waste a day – this is how you can help your refuse collectors**

Domestic waste is collected from around 55,000 collection points, with approximately 65,000 collections being carried out each week. 75 refuse collection vehicles are needed to collect Stockholm's household waste along with around 150 collection workers, each one collecting about 5 tonnes of waste every day.

### **What you can do to make things easier for your collection workers:**

- If you need to put something sharp in your refuse bag, pack it very carefully so that your collection worker does not risk cuts or injuries.
- Drain wet refuse before putting it in the bag. If there is a risk of leakage, place some kitchen roll or a few pages of newspaper at the bottom of the bag.
- Tie the refuse bag with a double knot so that it does not open up and dirty the inside of the container.
- Tip: Separate your waste! Hazardous waste, waste from electrical and electronic equipment and bulky waste does not belong in your refuse bag. Instead, dispose of it at one of the city's collection points. Packaging and newspapers are perfect for recycling, and should be taken to your nearest recycling collection point.



### **Residents of villas and terrace houses should also think about the following...**

- Do not overload your refuse bin or refuse sacks to the point where they become too heavy for collection. Refuse sacks should not weigh more than 15 kg according to the Swedish Work Environment Authority's regulations for lifting, and refuse bins must not be too heavy to pull. Normal refuse bags don't usually cause problems, but if you have had a party or if you have a lot of fruit that falls from your trees in the autumn, they could become too heavy. If the refuse bin can't be closed properly, you also risk attracting birds and vermin.
- Rinse out your refuse bin if your waste has leaked, so that bags do not get stuck to the bottom.
- Don't let your dog loose in the garden on collection day.



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