

WASTE

Your Duty of Care

All businesses have a duty of care to store and dispose of their waste safely and within the law. If you break this law, you could be prosecuted. To fulfil your duty of care you must:

1. Make sure that the organisation collecting your waste is fully licensed by the Environment Agency.

All businesses must have a waste collection contract with a licensed waste carrier who is authorised to remove, transport and dispose of waste. If you pass your waste onto someone who does not have a licence, and your waste is illegally disposed of, you could be held responsible.

To check that your contractor has a valid a waste carrier licence call the Environment Agency on **08708 506506** and request an instant Waste Carrier Validation. Alternatively check the online waste carrier register at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

When food waste is sent to landfill it produces methane gas, a greenhouse gas 24 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. You can avoid this by composting (recycling) your food waste.

“For every tonne of household waste produced, commercial, industrial and construction businesses produce another six tonnes” Defra

2. Write a waste transfer note (WTN) for each load of waste which leaves your premises.

You must provide a written description of your waste to the person who collects it so that they know what they are dealing with and how to handle it safely. The WTN is usually filled out by your waste contractor but it is your responsibility to ensure the information on it is correct. The note should include:

- your company details
- the quantity and type of waste, including the relevant European Waste Code (EWC).
- how the waste is contained
- the time, date and location of the waste collection
- details of the company collecting the waste

Repeated transfers of the same kind of waste between the same parties, e.g. weekly collections from a shop, can be covered by one transfer note for up to a year.

By law you must keep an original copy of your waste transfer notes for 2 years.

3. Make sure that your waste is 'pre-treated'.

All non-hazardous waste must be treated before being sent to landfill to:

- reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill
- reduce the harmful impact of waste which is landfilled on water, soil, air and human health.

Your waste contractor may provide a pre-treatment service. Alternatively, you can pre-treat your own waste by separating out materials for recycling or by composting bio-degradable waste. You may wish to consider recycling the following:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Magazines/newspapers
- Glass
- Tins/Cans
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic bags
- Vending cups
- Printer cartridges
- Mobile phones
- IT equipment
- Fluorescent tubes
- Paint
- Batteries
- Textiles
- CDs
- Furniture
- Oil
- Food waste
- Wood/pallets

Landfill space is running out. To discourage its use the government will increase Landfill Tax by £8 per tonne until 2013. This means that the cost of waste collection will increase too. Maximising the amount of waste you recycle means that you can reduce the amount of waste you send to landfill, which will help to keep the cost of your waste collection down.

A list of companies which collect some or all of the above recyclable materials in Haringey can be found at www.haringey.gov.uk/greenbusiness

You will need to provide confirmation of pre-treatment along with your waste transfer note and keep a copy of the pre-treatment confirmation.

To sum up you must...

1. Ensure your waste carrier is licensed with the Environment Agency.
2. Keep an original copy of all your waste transfer notes for at least two years.
3. Pre-treat your waste or ensure it is treated by someone else before being sent to landfill.

Finally remember...

- A household Reuse & Recycling Centre can **not** be used for trade waste – even if you are only intending to deposit recycling.
- Business waste cannot be put out for collection with household waste. You must have a contract with a licensed waste carrier to collect your trade waste.

If you would like more information on how to green your business please visit www.haringey.gov.uk/greenbusiness or contact the Environmental Resources team at Haringey Council by emailing environmental.resources@haringey.gov.uk or calling 020 8489 3528.