

Accumulations of Rubbish

Background

The Environmental Protection Section routinely receives complaints of rubbish being deposited or allowed to accumulate on private land. This may be as a result of illegal fly tipping, or where households have not managed their waste disposal, and have allowed rubbish to accumulate at their property.

Things you should know

- Every house in South Gloucestershire has 6 containers for rubbish, recyclable and compostable waste.
 - **Green box** for dry recyclables (Glass bottles and Jars, Food and drink cans (washed out please) Textiles (In bags please), Used engine oil, Metal foil),
 - **Green wheeled bin for garden waste.** Please contact Streetcare to arrange an annual subscription to have your green bin emptied fortnightly
 - **Large grey 25 litre food waste bin** with a green lid and smaller grey **five litre kitchen caddy** for food waste,
 - **Green paper recycling bag**
 - **Lime Green 60 litre bag** for your cardboard
 - **White 60 litre bag** for your plastic bottles and
 - **Black wheeled bin** for everything else.
- You get a weekly kerbside collection of food waste. A fortnightly collection of plastic bottles and the black bin for household rubbish that can't be recycled, a fortnightly collection of garden waste, cardboard, glass, paper, cans and a range of other items that can be recycled.
- You need to know when your collection day is, and the cycle of weeks for the different waste items. If you forget to put your black bin out, it will be a further 2 weeks before it will be collected again. If you are going to be away on your collection day, make arrangements with friends or a neighbour to put your bin out for you.
- If you do miss a collection, we would advise that you bag up all fresh rubbish and take it to one of the Councils SORT IT!* Centres (Civic Amenity Site) every 3 or 4 days, and not allow it to accumulate.
- Ensure your bin is put out on the kerbside and that the lid is down. Bins will **NOT** be collected if they are **not put out**, or if the **lid is left** up even a small amount.
- Side waste even if bagged up will **NOT** be collected.
- If you put the wrong rubbish in your bin eg. Refuse in the green bin, the bin will not be emptied, and you will need to remove the waste and place it in the correct bin or take it to the SORT IT!* Centre, before it will be collected.

- Large families (usually 6 or more) those with particular medical needs and families with babies may be eligible for a larger or additional bin, for which there will be a small annual charge.

Household waste can be taken to one of the 4 SORT IT!* Centres, located at; Collett Way, Yate. Station Rd. Little Stoke. Carsons Rd. Mangotsfield and Thornbury Industrial Estate.

For more information on any of these or other waste disposal issues contact Waste Management on:

Tel: 01454 868000 Email: streetcare@southglos.gov.uk

Web: www.southglos.gov.uk/sortit

Why proper waste disposal is important.

• Pests & Disease

When waste is allowed to accumulate especially if it contains food scraps, it will become an attraction for all kinds of pests, including; Rats, Mice, Flies & Maggots, Cockroaches, Birds, Cats, Dogs and Foxes.

Many pests can spread diseases that are **harmful to human health**. Rodents carry a micro-organism that causes Leptospirosis. The micro-organism can survive in the rat without causing any illness. However if passed onto humans, either by direct contact or through contact with surfaces or water, which has been contaminated with rat's urine, the potentially fatal form of Leptospirosis, called Weil's disease results.

Flies and cockroaches in particular spread diseases. Their free movement from dirty to clean areas enables them to carry infections on their bodies and mouthparts.

Rodents, insects and birds can contaminate food, equipment and working surfaces with excreta, hairs or body parts.

Direct damage to buildings can result due to gnawing activity of rodents. Rats and mice can cause fires by gnawing through electrical cables and flooding by gnawing through pipes.

• Odours

Food waste, soiled nappies etc will quickly start to smell as it decomposes. Not only is this unpleasant for you and your neighbours, it will quickly attract pests to your property. Odours will be worse in the summer as the decomposition occurs more quickly, and people will have doors and windows open, and will be trying to use their gardens.

Rubbish Accumulations and the Law.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives the Council power to deal with any accumulations of waste that are prejudicial to Health or a Nuisance. For the reasons detailed earlier in this document, rotting rubbish may lead to a Statutory Odour Nuisance and is likely to be prejudicial to health by attracting vermin. If a Nuisance

is established, the Council may serve a legal notice requiring the person responsible to clear the rubbish. Failure to comply with the notice may lead to the Council instigating legal action that can carry a fine of up to £5,000.

The Public Health Acts give the Council the power to deal with filthy and / or verminous premises where they pose a threat to public health e.g. affecting neighbouring properties. In cases where there is a risk to public health, the Council can obtain a warrant to enter and clean the property and recover all costs incurred from the householder.

If the accumulation is either causing harbourage for vermin or is attracting significant numbers of vermin to the premises or land, the Council has powers under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 to serve a legal notice requiring treatment and or clearing of the rubbish. Failure to comply with the notice may lead to the Council instigating legal action that can carry a fine of up to £1,000.

Free Internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries

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