

Food Waste

Why it has to be dealt with in a different way

DEFRA

Waste Hierarchy

Many businesses are unaware of how significantly waste impacts on their bottom line. As the demand for materials grows worldwide, raising input costs, it makes sense for businesses to adopt the waste hierarchy.

Article 4 of the revised EU Waste Framework Directive ([Directive 2008/98/EC](#)) sets out five steps for dealing with waste, ranked according to environmental impact – **the 'waste hierarchy'**.

Prevention, which offers the best outcomes for the environment, is at the top of the priority order, followed by preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery and disposal, in descending order of environmental preference.

Stages	Include
Prevention:	Using less material in design and manufacture. Keeping products for longer; re-use. Using less hazardous materials
Preparing for re-use:	Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts
Recycling:	Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols
Other recovery:	Includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste; some backfilling
Disposal:	Landfill and incineration without energy recovery

The waste hierarchy has been transposed into UK law through the [Waste \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2011](#). The Regulations came into force on 29 March 2011. The provisions relating to the hierarchy (set out at in Regulations 12, 15 and 35) will come into force on 28 September 2011.

What you need to do

If your business or organisation (including local authorities on behalf of householders) produces or handles waste (this includes importing, producing, carrying, keeping or treating waste; dealers or brokers who have control of waste, and anyone responsible for the transfer of waste), you must take all such measures as are reasonable in the circumstances to:

- prevent waste, and
- apply the waste hierarchy when you transfer waste.

Food waste refers to

All cooked and uncooked food, including

- fruit and vegetables

- meat, fish and bone
- plate scrapings
- rice, pasta and bread
- tea bags and coffee grounds
- used tissues or kitchen towels.

Bin liners and sacks

Please DO NOT put plastic bin liners, sacks or bags in your food bin as they cannot be composted.

You can wrap food waste in newspapers, kitchen towels or paper bags. If you need to line your bin, use compostable paper or cornstarch bags.

There is no real difference between paper and cornstarch bags. Both are compostable and suitable for use with your food and garden waste.

Where does the food waste go?

Anaerobic Digestion:

Anaerobic digestion is the breakdown of organic material by micro-organisms in the absence of oxygen. Although this takes place naturally within a landfill, the term normally describes an artificially accelerated operation in closed vessels, resulting in a relatively stable solid residue.

Biogas is generated during anaerobic digestion (AD) - mostly methane and carbon dioxide - this gas can be used as a chemical feedstock or as a fuel.

Anaerobic digestion can treat many biodegradable wastes, including wastes that are unsuitable for composting, such as meat and cooked food.

Eco Composting:

EcoSci was founded in early 1994, and rapidly established itself as one of the UK's leading specialists in the field of composting – processing and recycling a wide range of organic wastes - with the emphasis on environmentally friendly and cost-effective solutions.

EcoSci's core activity is composting some 55,000 tonnes per year of garden waste throughout Devon, UK. This is green waste composted directly on some 50 farms, spread throughout the county, and at the company's site in Exeter, where West Country Compost and ZooPoo are produced.

EcoSci opened an in-vessel composting site at Exeter in 2008 and are now taking in over 6000 tonnes of Food Waste per year, which is processed in the in-vessel system to produce West Country Compost Enhanced which is a nutrient rich compost for bulk use.

How do we collect your Food Waste?

Food is collected in a 240 litre lockable bin



Bio degradable sacks to line your 240 litre food bin are available at £1.50 each to keep your bin clean when it is being emptied.

The specifications for these sacks are as follows:

Compostable Wheelie Bin Liner – 100% starch based bio-compostable starch bin liner

Size: 30" x 46" gusseted x 54" long

Thickness: 100 gauge (20 mu)

Colour: green tint

To be Compliant please call:

01392 361300



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