

New Garden Waste

Subscription Service

We will be charging for the collection of garden waste from January 2024.

If you wish to continue receiving a fortnightly garden waste collection in 2024/25 you will need to opt-in to the new subscription service.



Colchester
City Council



Colchester recycles



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TRUST™

www.carbonbalancedpaper.com
CBP021530

How to sign up

To sign up to the service go to colchester.gov.uk/gardenwaste and complete the form. You can also scan the QR code from your phone to sign up. If you do not have online access, please call Colchester City Council.

Receiving your permit sticker

If you have a brown wheeled bin already, once you have signed up, you will receive a permit sticker to stick to your bin to show us you have subscribed.

If you don't have a wheeled bin already, once you have signed up, we will deliver a bin with a permit already stuck to the bin to show us you have subscribed.

Please sign up early to make sure you have received your permit sticker (and bin, if needed) prior to the service going live in January.

How much does it cost?

The standard subscription year runs from 1 April to

31 March each year, however, in 2024/2025 it will run from 15 January 2024 all the way until 31 March 2025.

£35 One-off joining fee, per wheeled bin subscription.

£55 Annual cost, per wheeled bin subscription.

There is a discount for anyone in receipt of Local Council Tax Support. This will give you a one off discount of £35.

You can have a maximum of four wheeled bin subscriptions per household. Choose from a standard 240 litre or smaller 140 litre bin.

You can share a bin with a neighbour. The permit must be registered to one property which will be responsible for the subscription.

If you have already subscribed to the service, thank you. You do not need to do anything further; however, you may continue to receive promotional material about this service.

What can I put in my garden waste bin?

✓ YES PLEASE

Grass, leaves and weeds



Flowers and plants



Hedge clippings



Prunings and twigs



Hay/straw (bedding from non-meat eating animals only)



Fruit/veg prunings from garden (no kitchen waste)



Real Christmas trees, cut into manageable pieces



✗ NO THANKS

Large branches



Plastic or black bags



Pet food, litter or waste



Soil or rubble



Plant pots



Some items that can't be recycled at the kerbside can be elsewhere, for example at Recycling Centres.



What are the alternatives to a subscription for garden waste collection?

Compost at home

You can buy a discounted compost bin from Love Essex [getcomposting.com](https://www.getcomposting.com) and compost your food and garden waste at home. It is great for the environment, and will save you money by creating soil improver you can use in your garden.

Take it to a Recycling Centre

Colchester's Recycling Centres have a public drop off for a number of recyclable items from cooking oil, to books, to scrap metal, and garden waste. Visit [loveessex.org/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre](https://www.loveessex.org/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre) for more details and visiting information.

We advise you not to burn your garden waste. It is bad for the environment, can cause breathing problems for your neighbours and, if it is a regular activity, it can be classed as antisocial behaviour.



Why are we making these changes?

The new service will be more financially sustainable. The current economic climate has impacted the council's financial position.

It is an optional service, only properties that require garden waste collections, will pay for it. This means that increases to Council Tax can be limited or reduced, resulting in a fairer collection service.

If we do not charge for garden waste collections, we would have to stop collecting garden waste altogether or look to close our Sport and Leisure services across Colchester.

In England around two out of three local authorities charge for garden waste collections.

A stylized illustration of a green tree with a brown trunk and a wooden picket fence in the foreground. The background is a light blue sky.

SIGN UP TODAY

colchester.gov.uk/gardenwaste
or scan this QR code to complete
the form.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will the service run all year round?

Yes. There will be 25 fortnightly collections of garden waste a year. The service will not run for two weeks around Christmas. Residents can check their collection dates on the online calendar.

Can all properties sign up for garden waste collections?

No. You will only be able to sign up for the service if you currently receive a garden waste collection. This is as some properties are not operationally suitable for collection. If you would like to check, please contact **customerservice@colchester.gov.uk**.

What do I do with my brown wheeled bin if I don't sign up?

From summer 2024 you can request your empty brown wheeled bin is collected. We will re-use it for another resident.

Alternatively, you can keep the bin at your property and use it as storage or give it a new life as a home composter. You'll find lots of 'How To' guides for this by searching on YouTube.

Is the subscription available online only?

Online is the quickest and easiest method, all you need is a credit or debit card and property details. We do not accept cash or cheque payments. If you are not able to do it online, please ask family or friends to complete the form on your behalf. If you do not have online access, please contact Colchester City Council.

Get Started With Home Composting!



- ✓ Reduce your food and garden waste
- ✓ Enrich your soil and build resilience in your garden
- ✓ Save money
- ✓ Support wildlife

Buy a reduced-price bin and learn how to get the most out of your compost at loveessex.org/composting. Available in 220 litre and 330 litre sizes.

Community Composting Grants

Why not start your own community composting scheme to support the local community in your area. We can offer advice, information and funding to help get you started.

Find out how community composting schemes work, how you start to set one up and the support available to you. Visit colchester.gov.uk/community-composting or scan this QR code.

