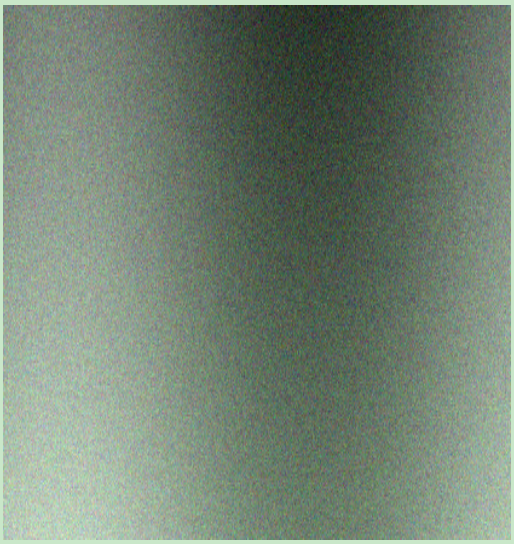
Household Waste & Recycling Guide 2026

Everything you need to know about your bins



Welcome

From April 2026 your recycling is collected in two blue boxes and a blue bag, so that paper, glass, cans and plastic stay clean and can all be recycled. Please keep this guide somewhere safe. If you have any questions visit https://www.fernbrook.example.gov.uk/bins or ring 01632 960 418.

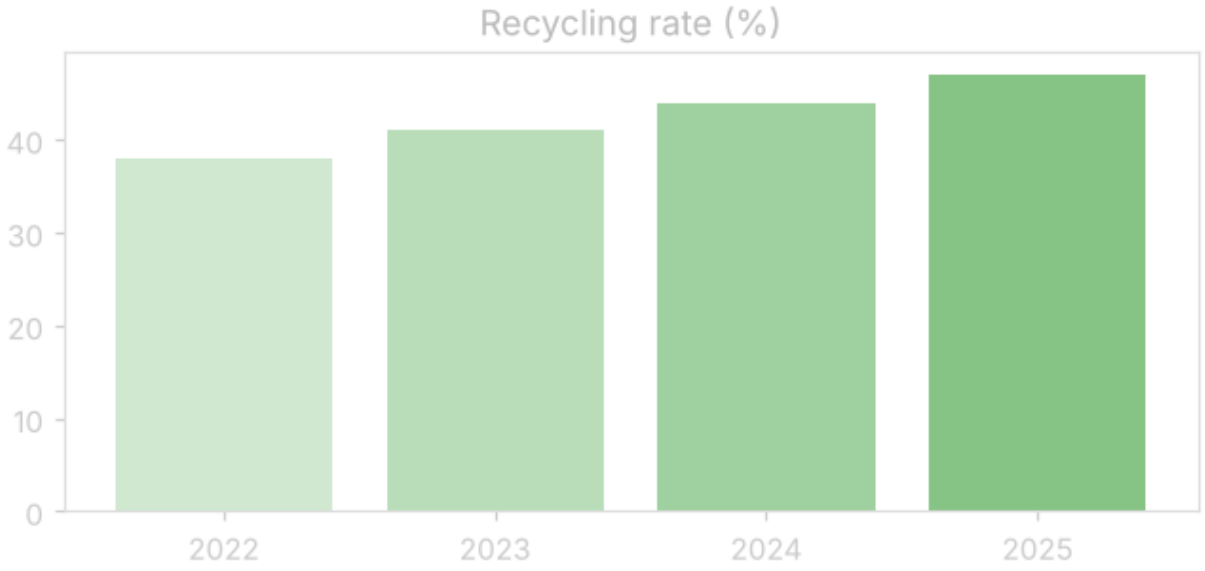
What goes in which bin

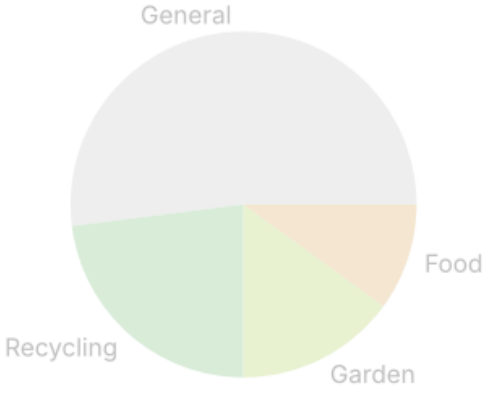
- Grey bin: general rubbish that cannot be recycled
- Blue box: paper and card, flattened
- Blue box: glass bottles and jars
- Blue bag: cans, foil, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- Green bin: garden waste (no collections mid December to mid February)
- Food caddy: all cooked and uncooked food, including bones and tea bags

How we are doing

Fernbrook recycled 47 per cent of household waste last year, up from 38 per cent in 2022, but we are still behind the national target of 55 per cent. Food waste is the biggest opportunity.

Contamination is the other problem. When the wrong things go in the blue bag a whole lorry load can be rejected. The most common mistakes are nappies, plastic film and carrier bags.





Collection days by area

Area	Grey bin	Boxes and bag	Food caddy
Town centre	Monday	Monday (odd weeks)	Every Monday
Northfield	Tuesday	Tuesday (even weeks)	Every Tuesday
Hilltop and Moor End	Wednesday	Wednesday (odd weeks)	Every Wednesday
Riverside	Thursday	Thursday (even weeks)	Every Thursday
Rural villages	Friday	Friday (odd weeks)	Every Friday

Putting your containers out

Please put your bins, boxes and bag out at the kerbside before 7am on your collection day. Leave them where the crew can see them, without blocking pavements, driveways or dropped kerbs, and take them back in the same day.

Rinse cans, bottles and pots so they are free of food, squash plastic bottles and cans to save space, and flatten cardboard so it fits inside your blue box. Labels can stay on. Bins are only emptied if the lid shuts.

We can only collect waste in containers we have given you. Large pieces of cardboard that will not fit in the box should go to a household waste recycling centre or a recycling bank.

Household waste recycling centres

There are two household waste recycling centres in the borough, at Moor End and Riverside. Both are open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, from 8am to 6pm in summer and 8am to 4pm in winter.

Some things cannot go in any of your containers at home and must be taken to a centre instead. These include light bulbs, soil and rubble, sheet glass and ovenproof glass dishes, paint, gas bottles and household chemicals.

If you are visiting in a van, a pickup or with a trailer you will need to book a slot online. Please bring a recent council tax bill or utility bill as proof of address.

What cannot be recycled at home

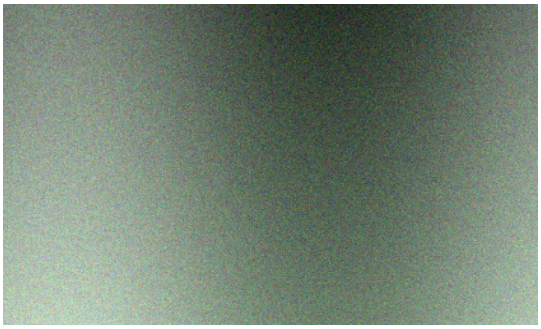
Some things look recyclable but cannot be sorted at our recycling plant, so they must go in your grey bin. These include foil-backed card, waxed paper, wrapping paper, drinks cartons, plastic bags and film, flower pots and polystyrene.

Nappies and pet litter must always go in the grey bin, wrapped in a bag. Never put them in your recycling: a single nappy can mean a whole lorry load of recycling is rejected.

Garden waste collections stop over the winter, from mid December to mid February. Small real Christmas trees can go in your green bin once collections start again, cut into pieces so the lid shuts.

Contact us

Report a missed bin: https://www.fernbrook.example.gov.uk/missed-bin

This guide is available in large print, Braille, audio and other languages on request.

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