



Waste “Duty of Care”

A cleaner neighbourhood. We all want it. We can all help to achieve it.

In November 2005, the law relating to waste was changed help ensure that waste is dealt with properly.

The new rules should help to reduce the amount of fly-tipped waste that appears in our roads and country lanes, laybys, public open spaces and other land.

Certain controls used to apply only to businesses - the new rules make important changes to include domestic occupiers.

Householders now have responsibility for disposing of their waste properly, too.

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO DOMESTIC OCCUPIERS?

Recent changes in the law mean that all occupiers of **domestic property** have a **DUTY** to ensure that the waste they produce is disposed of properly.

This means that householders must ensure that any waste removed from their

property for disposal (including garden waste) is disposed of properly. Householders breaking these rules face **prosecution** and fines of up to **£5000**

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO BUSINESSES?

If you are, (**or are employed by**), a business or industry, the Duty of Care applies to you.

Waste materials produced or handled in the course of your business or within your workplace are regulated by law and are subject to the Duty of Care.

If the waste you produce or handle has certain hazardous properties then it may be '**Special Waste**'. Special Waste is subject to the Duty of Care in the same way as other controlled wastes but you will also have to comply with more detailed requirements to ensure safe, lawful disposal.

The storage and handling of hazardous wastes may also present special Health and Safety problems. If you think this might apply to your waste, you should seek specialist advice to make sure that you fully understand the risks and deal with them properly.

Businesses, and the individuals they employ, can face prosecution leading to **unlimited fines and imprisonment** for breaking these rules.

HOW CAN I MAKE SURE MY WASTE IS DEALT WITH PROPERLY?

Whether you are a business, an employee of a business or a domestic occupier, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that the waste you produce or handle is disposed of properly.

First thing to do is to ensure you are using a reputable operator; visit the Environment Agency Website at

<http://www2.environment-agency.gov.uk/epr/index.asp>

and enter your postcode on-line for a list of authorised carriers in your area.

If anyone other than Waveney District Council collects your waste:

- make sure they are a **Registered Waste Carrier**.
- You can do this by telephoning the Environment Agency on **08708 506506** for an instant '**Waste Carrier Validation Check**'
- make sure you know **where** the waste will end up.
- The person removing your waste must provide you with a **Waste Transfer Note**.
- Make sure you **keep a copy**.
- Make a note of the **registration number** of the vehicle used to collect your waste.

I WANT TO GET RID OF SOME WASTE

You can help reduce our impact on the environment by making maximum use of the available **recycling facilities**.

You can get further information about the recycling facilities offered by the **kerbside collection** service, **"bring" sites** (e.g. in supermarket car parks), and advice on **waste reduction** and **home composting** by contacting us on (01502) 523561.

For **large or bulky items** of household waste: phone (01502) 523468 for details.

Items of household waste that you can't put into your wheelie bins can be taken to one of the **Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)** run by the County Council. These are located at Blyth Road, **Southwold**; Fen Lane, **Beccles**; and Hadenham Road, South **Lowestoft** Industrial Estate.

NB No trade waste or hazardous wastes
Other restrictions apply – if in doubt, check first: (0845) 6066067 or online at www.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Small amounts of soil and rubble from my home arising from DIY work can be bagged and taken to an HWRC.

If you have larger quantities, you should consider hiring a skip. (Yellow pages).

WHAT ABOUT HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Asbestos - Asbestos was used extensively as a building material in Great Britain from the 1950's through to the mid 1980's. The most common use for asbestos in the home was in cement based products like sheets used for constructing garages and sheds, rainwater gutters and pipes, pipe lagging and as the rest pad on ironing boards.

The Household Waste Recycling Centres **cannot** take asbestos. Asbestos materials are treated as special waste, and so cannot be disposed of in the same way as normal household waste.

Householders can dispose of small amounts of hard bonded asbestos waste arising from household maintenance by placing the material in strong plastic bags (asbestos should be double-bagged) and labelled clearly and transported to Wrentham tip before 2pm. **There is a charge** for this service. For further information please contact Suffolk County Council on (0845) 6066067 or online at www.suffolkcc.gov.uk

In addition to the general duty of care applicable to waste, **businesses** dealing with asbestos also have an obligation under **Health & Safety at Work** legislation to ensure that they do so safely. Further information is available from the Health & Safety Executive at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm

Clinical Wastes – from, for example residents receiving medical treatment in their own home - contact us on **(01502) 523561** for further information.

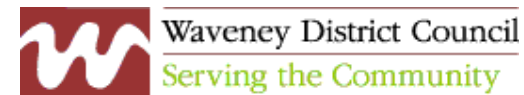
Flammable liquids – Oil, petrol, paint and other flammable liquids are subject to special requirements- contact us on **(01502) 523561** for further information.

Other Special Wastes e.g. animal by-products, explosives, radioactive substances - contact us on **(01502) 523561** for further information.

CONSULTATION

We would like to know what you think about waste. If you would like to make a comment, write to us at the address given below, or use the feedback form on our website at www.waveney.gov.uk

Supported by:



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