



Darebin Waste and Recycling during COVID-19 Pandemic FAQs – as of 27 April 2020

Please note this information may change.

As we are spending more time at home currently, some residents may be finding they have more waste and recycling than before, while others may find that they have much less waste as they are buying less. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions and responses to help your household bins stay on track during this time.

Will the kerbside waste and recycling collection continue as normal?

Kerbside waste collection is continuing as normal. The following advice is provided to residents about how to safely dispose of household waste during this time.

- If you take your bin to the kerb, make sure you wash your hands before and after you bring it back in.
- If you take a bin out on behalf of others make sure you wear gloves and dispose of them appropriately.

For those with coronavirus (covid-19), the following steps should be taken;

- Put all of your usual items in your bin which goes out for kerbside collection. Wash your hands afterwards.
- Put disposable items (tissues, cleaning cloths, masks and gloves) into a sealed plastic or paper bag.
- Put the bag in your general waste bin (not recycling or green waste) for kerbside collection.
- Put paper, cardboard and other recyclables that have been in contact with the above disposable items into your general waste bin as well.
- Wash your hands straight after handling disposable items or items that have been in contact with them.

To help waste collectors, please ensure the following:

- Compact rubbish, if possible, before putting it in your kerbside general waste bin.
- Don't compact waste that is already in the bin. It may become stuck and not empty properly.
- Don't overfill waste or recycling kerbside bins or put them where they may easily tip over or spill.

For information, updates and advice about the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), please visit:

[Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[Environment Protection Authority Victoria](#)

Will there be more frequent bin collections during required isolation periods?

Council will continue to collect the bins at the current frequency: weekly for landfill bins, and fortnightly for each of recycling bins and food and green waste bins. Overall the amount of waste we are collecting remains the same.

Can I get a larger bin during this period?

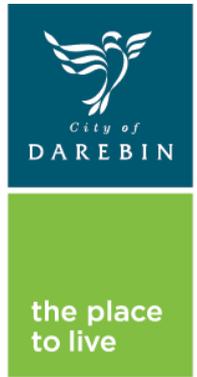
Council does offer a larger bin (240 litre or 120 litre) which residents can order through our Customer Service team. This is a paid service and costs range depending on the number of people living at the property and size of bin. If you are interested in a larger general waste bin, please call Customer Service on 8470 8888 to apply for a Larger Bin Permit.

There are other ways to cut down on waste and you may wish to check if any of these will help in your case. See the question 'what happens if my bin is overflowing'.

What happens if my bin is overflowing?

While we are finding that many in the community have similar amounts of waste at the moment, if you are finding that you do have more waste or recycling there are several things you can check to see if they will help in your case:

- Ensure you are putting all your recyclable materials into your yellow-lidded recycling bin. Remember, all your glass jars and bottles, cardboard, paper, aluminium tins and cans, plastic containers and bottles can be recycled in your recycling bin. To find out more, visit: www.darebin.vic.gov.au/recycling
- Squashing and flattening boxes and plastic bottles will help you to fit more in.
- One of the best ways to reduce the waste in your landfill bin is by reducing the food waste in your bin. Composting, worm farming and using a Bokashi bin are great ways to recycling your food scraps.
- If your household already has a green waste bin, it has recently become a food and green waste bin. It is worth checking that you are putting all the types of food you can into it. Find more information on what new items can go in your green waste bin at www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste
- If you don't already have a food and green waste bin, you can consider it. Council's food and green waste service is optional. A 120 litre food and green waste bin costs \$54.10 and a 240 litre costs \$102.50. Discounts are available to pension card holders. You can order a food and green waste bin [here](#) (please note, fees are charged annually and billed to the ratepayer, if you are a tenant you will need your landlords permission). The application form can be found [here](#).
- Using cloth nappies, even some of the time can help save on costs as well as cutting down waste. In Darebin, nappies account for 7% of our waste going to landfill with conventional disposable nappies estimated to take up to 150 years to break down. You can order cloth nappies online so you can stay home. For more information, check out this useful [guide](#).
- For other ways to reduce your food waste while at home, such as meal preparation tips, visit our website here: www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste under "Avoiding Food Waste"
- If you have excess items, the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre remains open at this time and accepts excess recycling. Waste can also be disposed of for a fee. Please see the next question for more information.



Can I visit the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre?

Members of the community are able to attend transfer stations including the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre, provided they strictly adhere to physical distancing requirements. Our transfer stations remain open. You may use the transfer station if you believe your trip is essential.

Under the Victorian Government's public health directions, access to transfer stations to dispose of household waste from a general tidy up is not considered an essential activity.

Essential activity, however, may include:

- businesses that require access to a transfer station as part of running their business
- disposal of waste from properties that do not receive any kerbside waste collection services
- where stockpiling waste on your property may pose a safety hazard.

Stay home. Protect the health system. Save lives

Please consider if your visit to a transfer station can wait until circumstances change. Do not attend if you are unwell, and ensure you follow physical distancing rules.

Will hard waste and recycling collections still happen this year?

Yes, Darebin's hard waste and recycling collection will take place during winter this year. For more information about hard waste and recycling collection dates for your area and what you can put out during hard waste collections, please visit: www.darebin.vic.gov.au/hardwaste.

Can I still take my clothes and other second-hand items to an Op Shop during this time?

While Op Shops are now closed during the isolation period, you can drop off items in good condition, including furniture, timber, building materials, clothes, toys, games, tools, household fixtures and furnishings, collectable, books, CDs, DVDs, and plants to the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre on Kurnai Avenue in Reservoir.

Please note, it is illegal to leave items at an Op Shop or other donation store when they are closed, and fines may be issued.

If your clothing needs minor repair, why not take this opportunity and mend them? If you are not sure how, there are lots of great mending tricks and tips online and you may also find some online classes.



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There are more cars parked in our street during the day now, will our bins still be able to be collected?

Yes, our waste and recycling collection trucks will continue to collect your bins as per usual. However, more cars on the streets does make collecting bins more challenging. To assist our collection trucks to collect your bins during these busier times, please:

- Leave your bin on the front nature strip the night before it is due to be collected
- Try to check that there are not cars blocking access to the bin

If your bin has been missed for collection, please advise us within 48 hours of your bin being missed so we can arrange for another collection. You can report your missed bin to us over the phone by calling Customer Service on 8470 8888.