

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

Please note this information may change.

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 these disposable items into a sealed plastic or paper bag and place in your bin:
  - tissues
  - cleaning cloths
  - masks
  - gloves.
- Now put the bag in general waste (not recycle or green waste) for kerbside collection.
- Put paper, cardboard and other recyclables that have mixed with the above disposable items into general waste as well.
- Wash your hands straight after handling disposable items or items that have become mixed with them.
- To help waste collectors:
  - 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.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste) under "Avoiding Food Waste"

### Can I visit the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre?

The Darebin Resource Recovery Centre (DRRC) and the Outlook Market Second Hand Shop will be open to the public from Wednesday 28 October 2020.

The DRRC will be open from 8am to 3.30pm Monday to Sunday and the Outlook Market Shop will be open from 8.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Sunday.



The following measures are consistent with State Government COVID-19 guidelines and are in place to keep everyone safe:

- No mask no entry
- One visit per day, for a maximum of 20 minutes, per customer
- A maximum of 30 people at a time in the Outlook Shop
- Temperature check required for entry to the Outlook Shop and/or DRRC
- First name and phone number will be recorded for entry to the Outlook Shop and/or DRRC. This is to assist any potential contact tracing
- Hand sanitising station will be provided at the shop entry
- Some tipping bays have been blocked at the DRRC to maintain social distancing. Customers will be notified of wait times upon entry before paying.

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

While some local Op Shops will reopen on 28th October, others may require additional time to reopen. Download the [Darebin Op Shop Map](#) and check with your local op shops before you visit them. 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 local op shop is closed, you can plan a visit to the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre. For more information, please see the question '**Can I visit the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre?**'.

### **Is recycling affected?**

Recycling is continuing as normal during the COVID-19 pandemic. We're all doing our bit to support our communities right now and that means getting our recycling right to help the systems run smoothly too. As always, sort your recycling correctly, and keep these **out** of your recycling bin:

- Food waste (Compost or use Food and Green Waste Bin)
- E-waste (Find out where to take your e-waste at [ewaste.vic.gov.au](http://ewaste.vic.gov.au)). Please note that some e-waste drop-off points may not be operating as normal at this time.
- Polystyrene (Place in your general waste bin)
- Coffee cups (Place in your general waste bin)

To find out more, visit [www.recycling.vic.gov.au](http://www.recycling.vic.gov.au).