

Your garden waste during the coronavirus pandemic

Our garden waste collections restart on May 4. Collections are every four weeks (instead of fortnightly) and your collection day remains the same.

Half of households will receive their collection on their scheduled day over the first two weeks (w/c May 4 and 11) and the other half on their scheduled day over the second two weeks (w/c May 18 and 25) and so on. We will post on social media as soon as calendars have been amended and you can see when your first collection is.

We cannot offer a second bin service at the moment, and we cannot collect any extra waste – just what is in your bin.

Collecting monthly instead of fortnightly means we can focus on your household waste and recycling.

There are some things you can do to minimise garden waste in the meantime, but we understand these measures aren't available to everyone.

Compost your waste.

You can find lots of tips on how to set up and operate a compost bin here:

<https://www.recyclenow.com/reduce-waste/composting>. But you don't even need a bin if you have garden space – an open heap will compost eventually if it has air, moisture and is turned regularly. Get some tips here: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=444>.

Residents can order discounted compost bins from £7.50 plus £6 delivery from Cumbria County Council. For more information about home composting and the discounted bins, visit www.recycleforcumbria.org. The county council is also offering discounted food digesters, which turn your food waste into nutrition for your garden. Find out more here.

Leave grass clipping on your lawn

This is a tried and tested way of getting rid of your clippings in an environmentally-friendly way. It may not look as neat, but your lawn will thank you, as the nutrients from the cut grass will leach back into the soil.

Store your extra waste

Some residents may have space to store excess garden waste between monthly collections. It would need to be bagged up, and on your own property. Whenever you have spare space, this can be added to your garden waste bin for collection.

Create a wildlife area

This is a popular idea which may be even more useful now. Allowing an area of your garden to grow wild is fantastic for insects and other wildlife, and can be used to help children to learn about different plants and pollinators. It will also mean you create less garden waste. Get some tips here: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardeningforwildlife/creating-a-wildlife-friendly-garden/>

Burning waste

Burning waste that causes a 'nuisance' to others is an offence. This creates air pollution that could harm people nearby who may already have breathing difficulties. There is also the danger that fires

could get out of control. Fire services around the country are reporting an increase in call-outs due to garden fires.

Fly tipping Fly tipping is an offence and anyone who fly tips garden or any other waste is liable to a fine or prosecution, so please don't dump your waste.