

Blue bin and Glass Recycling Service 2017

All service changes alluded to in these FAQ's are dependent on the kerbside glass collection being fully operational and available to all residents in the Borough.

Q. What is changing?

A. You must now place ALL your recyclable waste in the blue recycling bins and all your glass bottles and jars in the collection box provided.

Q. Why is the Council banning recyclable waste from grey bins?

A. Ards and North Down Borough Council is committed to providing a waste service which is efficient and provides best value for money to the residents of the Borough. Data surveys show that a large quantity of potentially recyclable material is still being placed in the grey bins. This material is then being sent to landfill, generating a large disposal bill, money which could be better spent on local services.

Q. Apart from the monetary issue, why is it important to place my recyclable material in the blue bin, and my glass in the collection box provided?

A. Material collected in the blue bin and glass caddy is sent off for recycling into new products. This helps to reduce the demand for raw materials which are often environmentally damaging to obtain, leading to deforestation and mining pollution. Recycling companies also provide local employment and investment in Northern Ireland.

Q. Why can we just not put glass into the blue bin along with the other recyclable material?

A. When glass is collected in a co-mingled collection it will inevitably break, meaning that glass fragments will be found throughout the other materials such as paper and card even once they are separated out. Under current contracts for our recyclable material, glass fragments greatly reduce the value of the material sent for recycling as processors have to put more expensive measures in place to ensure there are no glass particles left to contaminate materials such as paper, plastic and metals.

Q. What about the cost of recycling all this waste? Won't my rates bill rise?

A. It actually costs half as much to recycle your waste compared to the cost of landfilling it, because the government charges the Council a hefty landfill tax. The money saved by recycling waste will be used to help keep rates bills down and to invest in new and better community services.

Q. What about the hassle of collecting and storing all the material for recycling?

A. The Council will be providing a free 'recycling sack.' This will allow you to collect and store material for recycling, helping you to keep your kitchen or utility room tidy. When the bag is full you can then transfer the material to your blue bin or glass collection box.

Q. What types of waste must I recycle?

A. In the blue bin you must place paper (including plain envelopes), cardboard, food and drinks cans, aerosols, clean foil, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays and juice cartons.

In your glass collection box you must place all glass bottles and jars.

Q. What will happen if I put blue bin recyclable materials/glass in my grey bin?

A. Council staff will be checking grey bins to ensure that recyclable materials or glass hasn't been placed in them. Where they find these materials in your grey bin rather than your blue bin or glass caddy, they will initially leave a sticker reminding you of the requirements. Where you continue to incorrectly place recyclable materials in your grey bin, we may then refuse to empty it. ***Please note that enforcement will only commence once the kerbside glass collection service has commenced.***

Q. What if I live in an apartment?

A. All apartments will receive the same service. They will be looked at in a case by case basis as the project is introduced. Please contact us should you wish to discuss (0300 013 3333) and select option 3.

Q. Where can I get more advice or help?

You can get more advice or help in one of three easy ways:

1. Download our free recycling app, just search for 'Bin-ovation' in the Apple Store or Google Play.
2. Email us at: recycling@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
3. Telephone us on 0300 013 3333 and select option 3.