

Policy Name	Contamination of Mixed Recycling Policy
Committee Date/Name	Zero Waste Sub-Committee, 22 November 2016
Review Frequency	1 year
Next Review Due	November 2017
Implementation Date	1 March 2017

1.0 Purpose of Policy

To establish a policy that details how bins presented with contaminated recyclables will be dealt with and to define what contamination is.

2.0 Acceptable Materials

2.2.1 The 240l mixed recycling bin is only for the items that can be recycled as listed below:

- Steel and aluminium cans, tins and foil
- Glass bottles and jars
- Paper and cardboard
- Plastic bottles, trays, tubs and yoghurt pots (all colours)
- Food and drink cartons (e.g. Tetrapak)

Items should be predominantly clean and free of food waste and plastic bags/film in particular.

2.3 Defining Contamination

2.3.1 Collection crews will check recycling bins as they are emptying them for evidence of contaminants such as food waste, plastic bags or film, garden waste, nappies, clothing, and other general waste materials that cannot be recycled.

This will be a visual inspection when they open the lid of the bin. Crews are not expected to wade through the materials.

2.3.2 The following is a guide to help determine whether a bin is deemed to be contaminated or not and the action to be take:

<u>Contamination level / Reason</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>
Severe contamination; or repeat offender of medium contamination	Filled black bags, food waste, nappies, more non-recycling than recycling. Or repeat offender of medium contamination.	1) Do not empty bin 2) Attach Bin Hanger/Sticker 3) Record on Collective 4) Letter sent to householder
Moderate contamination	Obvious misunderstanding of materials accepted – more than two but less than ten wrong items visible when bin lid is opened (there needs to be more recycling than non-recycling)	1) Empty bin 2) Bin Hanger/Sticker 3) Leave wrong items in a bag tied to the bin or remove if possible 4) Record on Collective
Low contamination	Two or less visible wrong items when the bin lid is opened.	1) Empty bin – likely that it is accidental. 2) No requirement to record

2.3.3 Severely contaminated recycling bins will not be emptied and it is then the responsibility of the householder to remove any contamination from the recycling bin

before it can be emptied.

2.4 Procedure

2.4.1 Bin identified as low contamination (as per 2.3.2 above)

- a. Where a domestic recycling bin has been identified as having low contamination by the collection crew, the crew will empty the bin. No further action is required.

2.4.2 Bin identified as moderate contamination (as per 2.3.2)

- a. Where a domestic recycling bin has been identified as having moderate contamination by the collection crew, the crew will log this using their in-cab electronic system. This information is available to the Contact Centre and Waste Team staff in real time.
- b. Crew will notify the householder (bin hanger/sticker, etc) of the issue.
- c. If the same household has moderate contamination on a repeated basis (more than twice), this will be deemed as **severely contaminated** and the process followed under 2.8 (bin not emptied, etc).

2.4.3 Bin identified as severely contaminated (as per 2.3.2)

- a. Where a domestic recycling bin has been identified as having severe contamination by the collection crew, the crew will log this using their in-cab electronic system. This information is available to the Contact Centre and Waste Team staff in real time.
- b. Crew will notify the householder (bin hanger/sticker, etc) of the issue - why the bin has not been emptied and that they must remove the offending items prior to the next collection
- c. A letter will be sent to the householder (standard letter):
 - reminding the householder of the correct items for recycling
 - that they must remove the offending items prior to the next collection
 - to take any excess materials to a Recycling Centre or Point
 - to contact the Waste & Recycling Team for advice if they are having difficulty.
- d. If the same household has repeated severe contamination an Officer will visit the householder to discuss and give advice.

References

