

## **RUBBISH:**

Every local authority has different arrangements for dealing with waste (rubbish). We have provided a list of council websites. Check those for details. But these rules are generally applicable across the whole country:

### **YOU MUST USE RUBBISH BINS:**

Rubbish must only be left in the correct places provided for it. 'Littering', which means throwing away rubbish in the wrong place, is a criminal act. You can get a very large fine (perhaps £1,000) under local laws. People have been fined for throwing away apple cores in the street and for throwing items from cars.

### **'FLY-TIPPING'. WHAT IT IS. AND WHY YOU MUST NOT DO IT:**

'Fly-tipping' is leaving an item you don't want, like a car or a freezer, by the side of a road (or in a field, or any other place where it clearly should not be left). This is highly illegal. The police and authorities will often catch people who do this. If they catch you the penalties can be very high (into thousands of pounds, but councils are all different). In general all such items can go to either a commercial 'scrap-yard' (look for scrap-yards in your phone book) or at council facilities.

### **CARS:**

It is your responsibility, as a car-owner, to make sure that your car is not left anywhere if it breaks down. Your responsibilities continue until the car is destroyed in a council or commercial facility. If the council has to take your car to destroy it, you can expect them to find you and charge you for the process. It will be expensive!

### **RUBBISH COLLECTIONS:**

Most local authorities collect rubbish from homes every week. Sometimes that service is every two weeks. Usually that rubbish must be in a 'wheelie-bin', and the bin must be closed. If it's not closed, they may refuse to empty it because it won't easily go into the machinery that empties wheelie-bins.

### **USE BAGS INSIDE WHEELIE-BINS:**

The wheelie-bins are usually owned by the council. To prevent damage to them, to prevent bad smells, and to prevent health risks such as rats, you should put your rubbish in proper bags before you put the bags into the bins.

### **GLASS:**

Most councils now collect glass to be recycled. Places are provided for you to take your glass, and most British people now do this. The councils provide some of the recycle bins, but most superstores also have bins. Usually the bins are for clear glass, green glass, and brown glass. Try to put your glass in the correct bin. The glass is usually collected on a different day from other collections, perhaps just once a month.

### **PAPER, PLASTICS and BATTERIES:**

Many councils also provide places for you to leave paper, plastics and (sometimes) batteries. Again, such collections will probably be just once a month. Many superstores provide similar facilities. Please try to only place the correct items into the bins provided.

### **GARDEN WASTE:**

There are often special collections of garden waste. But you may have to take it yourself to a special area provided by the council. Ask your neighbours or ask the council.

### **OIL:**

It is highly illegal to pour oil away down drains. This applies particularly to engine oil. All garages will take your old motor oil for recycling if you ask them to (but you must go to them).

### **FIRES:**

You are allowed to burn garden waste in sensible places with the landowner's permission. But you must not burn plastics or any toxic or potentially toxic waste. And you should consider the neighbours.

### **WATER:**

As a general rule, you must allow nothing to contaminate any water. This includes running water or standing water. But it also includes land which will drain into rivers (and perhaps into reservoirs) when it rains.