

HOW TO.....REDUCE YOUR WASTE COSTS AND IMPROVE YOUR ECO-CREDENTIALS



Recycling saves money. Could you be doing more?

Recycling is the key to saving waste management costs. Landfill tax is £56 per tonne and rising rapidly every year. If your waste is not streamed at source you pay an element of landfill tax and you also pay for the additional processing of that waste.

Waste that is re-cycled costs generally 33% less.

These days most waste companies will even sort through your landfill waste to extract anything recyclable.

Waste costs can vary a lot and it is easy to find yourself paying far too much.

Where is the cost exactly?

You pay for your waste through branded sacks, or through your Euro-bin/wheelie bin cost.

Recycling Waste – the first steps

If you're not already doing it, place recycling bins throughout your office. Cardboard bins are normally £10 each, but you might want more sophisticated plastic bins. We can advise on this and source suitable bins. Put 2-3 bins in your kitchen if space allows.

Place transparent sacks into these bins and train staff to use them for paper, plastics, aluminium, and other dry, recyclable waste. We can provide signs to assist in saying what can be recycled. Instruct your cleaners to only empty them when they are full.

Other waste should get placed in normal bins and collected in normal waste sacks.

Euro-bin or kerbside sack collection?

There are generally 4 sizes of bin holding roughly the number of sacks shown below.

1000 ltr bin (holds 15-20 sacks)	If you have the space for 2 bins (one for landfill, one for recyclable), then we recommend this option. Expect a cost of approx. £12 per week for a landfill 1000ltr bin and £8 per week for recycling bin
660 ltr bin (10-12 sacks)	
360 ltr bin (5-7 sacks)	
240 ltr bin (3-5 sacks)	

If you have no space for a bin, then you may need to go for kerbside sack collection. Expect a cost of approx. £1.80 per branded sack for landfill waste and £1.20 per clear branded sack for recyclable waste. Make sure they are well filled! Make the most out of every sack.

What happens to the waste after that?

This depends on your waste management company.

Our main waste partner takes all waste to a central location, sorts and streams the recyclable waste and sells it on to the paper mills. Most plastic waste finds its way abroad to the Far East.

Does all landfill waste go to landfill? No, most waste can be used for something! A good waste company will carefully sort this waste on a huge conveyor belt so that 85% or more can be streamed back into recycling. Even food waste is recycled.

Central bins or bins at every desk?

In the last 10 years, large offices have experimented with 'Bin The Bin' campaigns. It generally works very well, but it can fail badly if poorly implemented, or if the staff don't buy into it.

The main benefit of central bins is that you end up recycling more and reduce cleaning time. Each hour of cleaning time reduced each day saves £2,500 per annum.

Front End Loaders (FEL's) – Do I need to know about this?

FEL's are the next step up from Euro-bins. They contain roughly 6-8 times as much waste. If access allows, and if you use more than 8 Euro-bins, then these become a better option.

What else can I recycle?

You can also re-cycle old electrical equipment, batteries, toners, cardboard, old furniture, strip lights, shredded security waste and kitchen waste. These are fairly easy to implement as long as you have the space and staff buy-in to stream and collect them separately.

Spotless are happy to help set up any of these schemes and advise on what work best for you. Case Studies are available on request.