



## WASTE MANAGEMENT IN COUNTY GALWAY

This information booklet for the domestic sector has been produced by Galway County Council in order to raise awareness of the waste management services available in Co. Galway. We hope that you find it of benefit. Any reference to legal regulations does not purport to be a legal interpretation and reference should be made to the regulations for their detailed provisions.

Queries in relation to any waste management issues can be directed to the Environment Section, Galway County Council as follows:

**Postal Address:** (For Correspondence)

Environment Section  
Galway County Council  
Áras an Chontae  
Prospect Hill  
Galway  
Phone: 091 476402  
Email: [environment@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:environment@galwaycoco.ie)

**Office Address:** (For Personal Callers)

Environment Section  
Galway County Council  
Centrepoint  
Liosbaun Industrial Estate  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Phone: 091 476402  
Web: [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)



# Table of Contents

Householders Role .....	1
Home Composting and Recycling.....	2
The Local Authority .....	3
Bring Banks .....	3
Recycling Centres .....	4 – 7
The Private Sector .....	8
Backyard Burning .....	9
Unauthorised Waste Collectors .....	9
Contact Numbers .....	10

# Waste Management Services In Co. Galway

Everybody has a role to play in terms of waste management in Co. Galway, including householders, the local authority and the waste service providers.

## Householders Role

### Prevention

We all must take responsibility for the amount of waste and the type of waste we create. There are many ways in which we can reduce or prevent the amount of waste we have and we should consider them when shopping. These include:

1. Use your buying power. Buy local goods and “in season” produce – it’s better for you and for the environment
2. Buy loose fruit and vegetables instead of prepacks
3. Buy rechargeable batteries
4. Buy drinks in recyclable containers
5. Do not buy prepacked meats
6. Buy goods with the least packaging
7. Use re-usable shopping bags
8. Buy durable electrical goods with the highest energy rating available
9. Buy concentrated products
10. Only buy what you need to prevent waste
11. Change to CFL bulbs. They are more efficient and can be recycled.



### Other methods of waste prevention include:

- a. Reducing the use of cling film and foil by using reusable containers for storage and for lunches
- b. Eliminating disposable cups, plates, cutlery etc.
- c. Returning unwanted mail to the sender
- d. Placing “no mailshot” sticker at your front door - remember you have to pay to dispose of all that unwanted mail

## Remember

The best way to manage waste is to prevent it altogether. It costs nothing, it causes no environmental damage and you don’t have to worry about it!

## Home Composting

Everyone with a garden should compost. Composting turns organic household waste such as teabags, coffee grounds, raw vegetable peelings, fruit and garden waste into a valuable product for your garden and can reduce the amount of household waste you send to landfill by up to 50%.



Garden waste such as grass, clippings, leaves and dead-headed flowers can be composted by making a heap out of the waste, stirring it regularly and keeping rain off it.

Grass and leaves will compost quickly if they are put into black bags and tied. Punch a few holes in each bag and leave for a few months and they will turn into a rich compost.

Composting units are available from many retail outlets and from Galway County Council.

## Recycling

Nowadays there are many recycling services available for your waste. When you recycle your waste, you divert this waste from landfill and turn it into a valuable resource which saves on raw materials and reduces the effect your waste has on the environment. You should recycle as much waste as possible through your household recycling service, the bring bank system, and the recycling centres. Clean and dry paper, cardboard, many plastics and metal can all be recycled. Together with composting food, these items make up much of the contents of your waste bin.

Each steel or aluminium can and each glass bottle recycled keeps valuable non-renewable resources such as bauxite, iron-ore and sand in the ground for future generations. Every recycled item saves energy that would be used in mining, harvesting, manufacturing and transporting.

Recycling paper means less paper going to landfill and for every tonne of paper recycled approximately 13 trees are saved. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the air contributing to a cleaner, safer environment.

Recycling also creates new jobs and increases the efficient use of resources.

**Remember - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**



## The Local Authority

Galway County Council provides various waste management services to the domestic sector, including Bring Banks and Recycling Centres.

## Bring Banks

There are 93 bring banks available to the domestic sector in Co. Galway where glass jars, bottles and aluminium beverage cans can be deposited.

There are also household textiles banks located at 40 of these sites where good quality clothes, shoes, bed linen, curtains etc. can be deposited.

### Do's and Don'ts when using a Bring Bank

1. Do segregate glass by colour into the correct banks
2. Do ensure that all glass containers are clean
3. Do not deposit pyrex, crystal or flat glass in bring banks as these will contaminate the recycling process
4. Do not deposit metal cans in the can bank as this bank is for aluminium cans only. All metal cans and metal lids should be recycled through your household system
5. Household textiles must be clean

N.B. The Bring Bank network is provided for the domestic sector only and its use by the commercial sector is strictly prohibited.

Don't leave any boxes or bags at the Bring Banks as you will receive a fine.

Persistent littering may result in the Bring Banks being removed from your community.



## Recycling Centres

There are 3 Recycling Centres in Co. Galway situated at Clifden, Tuam and Ballinasloe. Charges for some items apply.

**Please contact your nearest site for details of opening hours and charges.**

**Contact details for each site are as follows:**

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TUAM RECYCLING CENTRE Tel: 093-26438  
Location: Athenry Road, Tuam

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CLIFDEN RECYCLING CENTRE Tel: 095-30958  
Location: Galway Road, Clifden

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BALLINASLOE RECYCLING CENTRE Tel: 087-0506291  
Location: Pollboy, Ballinasloe



**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR EACH RECYCLING CENTRE ARE INDICATED IN THE TABLES ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TUAM</b>	<b>CLIFDEN</b>	<b>BALLINASLOE</b>
1. <b>Green, clear, and brown glass</b> i.e. bottles and jars	YES	YES	YES
2. <b>Beverage cans</b> N.B. Aluminium cans only. No food tins	YES	YES	YES
3. <b>Flat Glass</b> i.e. window glass, windscreens and mirrors.  It is important to note that this service is for flat glass only and under no circumstances will window frames or doors be accepted. All glass must be removed from frames	YES	YES	YES
4. <b>Electrical and Electronic Equipment</b> - all Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) such as fridges, freezers, fridge/freezers, electric cookers, microwaves, televisions, computers, DVD players, radios, electric heaters, hoovers, toasters, grills etc. (as it is impossible to give an exhaustive list of what will be accepted a good guideline is that if it has an electrical plug or electronics in its composition it will be accepted). If in further doubt please ring the recycling centre, ask at the site, or contact the Environment Section, Galway County Council	YES	YES	YES

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TUAM</b>	<b>CLIFDEN</b>	<b>BALLINASLOE</b>
5. <b>Battery operated items</b> - all battery operated items such as children's toys, remotes, torches, cameras, games, etc. (as it is impossible to give an exhaustive list of what will be accepted a good guideline is that if it uses a battery in its operation it will be accepted.) If in further doubt please ring the recycling centre, ask at the site or contact the Environment Section, Galway County Council	YES	YES	YES
6. <b>Batteries</b> – car batteries, household batteries, mobile phone batteries, button batteries, rechargeable batteries, etc	YES	YES	YES
7. <b>Light Bulbs</b> – CFL and Fluorescent tubes only	YES	YES	YES
8. <b>Waste engine oil and oil filters</b>	YES	YES	YES
9. <b>Household Hazardous Waste</b> which is fully labelled and readily identifiable will be accepted including pesticides, herbicides, aerosols, paint thinners, cosmetics and old medicine. Paint, paint cans, brushes, rollers etc. will also be accepted	YES	YES	YES
10. <b>Mobile phones</b>	YES	YES	YES
11. <b>Toner Cartridges</b> - including inkjet, laser and fax cartridges	YES	YES	YES
12. <b>Clothes</b> - all clothes, paired shoes, towels, sheets, blankets, curtains, handbags and belts in good condition	YES	YES	YES

ITEM	TUAM	CLIFDEN	BALLINASLOE
13. <b>Metal</b> – all scrap metal objects such as bicycles, lawnmowers, metal fencing, metal sheeting, pots, pans, metal off-cuts, etc. (any large object should be broken up so it can be handled safely)	YES	YES	YES
14. <b>Plastic items</b> – household plastic items including plastic bottles, plastic milk containers, yogurt pots, butter and margarine tubs etc. (it is important to note that each plastic item must be washed and clean)	YES	NO	NO
15. <b>Cardboard and Newspaper</b> (Baled or tied)	YES	NO	NO
16. <b>Polystyrene</b>	YES	YES	YES

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. Opening times, charges and services are subject to change at any time
2. The services provided at Galway County Council recycling centres are for the domestic sector only
3. Consumers should ensure that all data storage devices such as mobile phones, computers etc. are wiped of information
4. Household hazardous waste that is not fully labelled or readily identifiable will not be accepted
5. Household textiles must be in good condition
6. Window frames or doors are not accepted with flat glass
7. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) will be accepted from the retail sector by prior arrangement and with proof of registration under the Waste Management (Waste Electrical and Electronic Regulations) 2005
8. Children must be supervised at all times
9. Members of the public must comply with staff instructions
10. Full details can also be found at [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) or contact the Environment Section, Galway County Council

## The Private Sector

1. The household waste collection service is provided by various private sector operators in Co. Galway. Details of waste collection services in your area are available from the Environment Section, Galway County Council.
2. Barna Waste Headford Road, City Bin Oranmore and WERS Waste Tuam each provide a recycling centre for public use. Please contact these service providers for details of their operation.
3. Private sector operators also provide a skip service for larger cleanups. See yellow pages for details or contact the Environment Section, Galway County Council.
4. Under the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations 2005 retailers of electrical goods are obliged to take back "like for like" when an item is purchased provided it is clean and safe to do so.
5. Under The Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006 all major distributors of cars must have an appointed agent to dispose of their brand vehicles free of charge.
6. Under the Waste Management (Batteries and Accumulators) Regulations 2008, final users of waste batteries will be entitled to leave them back free of charge either to retail outlets selling equivalent batteries or other authorised collection points. Any person depositing waste batteries at the premises of any battery retailer will not be obligated to purchase any products. Please contact the Environment Section, Galway County Council for more information.

## Other Waste

There are various waste items which the public have to deal with from time to time, for example asbestos, bulky goods, furniture, farm plastic, septic tank waste etc. Details of these and other waste collection services in your area are available from the Environment Section, Galway County Council.



## Backyard Burning

### What is backyard burning?

Backyard burning is the uncontrolled burning of waste at low temperatures. The burning of waste in an uncontrolled environment is illegal and is subject to prosecution. When you burn waste at low temperatures pollutants are released into the air. Burning waste at low temperatures may damage your health, the environment and may cause nuisance to your neighbours.



### Burning of Waste is regulated by: The Air Pollution Act 1987

This obliges everybody not to cause or permit an emission in such a quantity, or in such a manner, as to be a nuisance or cause air pollution. There is an additional obligation on business and other non-domestic operators to use the best practical means to prevent or limit emissions.

### The Waste Management Acts 1996 - 2009

This prohibits the burning of any waste except in accordance with a permit.

### Waste Management (Prohibition Of Waste Disposal By Burning) Regulations 2009

It is illegal to burn any waste other than, as a last resort, waste consisting solely of uncontaminated (free of dangerous substances, preservatives or other artificial impregnation or coating) wood, trees, tree trimmings, leaves, brush, or other similar waste generated by agricultural practices. A statutory declaration **must** be completed to your Local Authority before disposing of any permissible waste by burning.

## Unauthorised Waste Collectors

You are responsible for ensuring that your waste is disposed of legally. All waste collectors in Galway must have a valid collectors permit. All waste contractors must have their permit number on any literature and any vehicle they use for collecting waste.

### Don't forget:

Unauthorised waste collectors may seem cheaper initially but if your waste is disposed of illegally you are liable to prosecution and significant fines. Ask any waste collector you employ for proof of their waste collection permit. Unauthorised waste collectors may dump your waste illegally and if it is traced back to you, you may be fined or prosecuted.

Helpful hint: Do not give your waste to anybody unless you are satisfied that they are a permitted waste collector. If you wish to check please contact the Environment Section, Galway County Council.

## Contact Numbers

Galway County Council 091-509000  
Environment Section, Galway County Council 091-476402  
Email: [environment@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:environment@galwaycoco.ie)  
Web: [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

### Private sector weekly household waste collectors

Barna Waste	1890300450/091-771619
WERS Waste	093-24027
Rural Refuse and Recycling	091-632090
Morans Refuse Services Craughwell	091-846494
City Bin Company	1800-248924

