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# Check what to put in your bins

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## What the black top bin is for

The black top bin is for waste that cannot be recycled, also known as general waste.

If your property does not have one, you'll need to buy your own black bin bags for your general waste.

We collect up to 3 bags of general waste from properties with no black top bins. We do not collect any bags of waste left beside the bin.

## Items to put in your black top bin

Use the black bin for non recyclable items like:

- disposable nappies
- tissues, kitchen roll and wipes
- polystyrene packaging
- cotton wool pads, earbuds and make up wipes

[Check full list of items to put in your black top bin](#)

## Items not to put in your black top bin

- building materials
- wood
- paint or chemicals
- electrical items
- all batteries

You can take these items to the Reuse and Recycling Centre, except for paint and chemicals.

[Book a hazardous waste collection](#) with the City of London to dispose of paints, chemicals and other hazardous waste.

## How to use your black top bin

You must bag your rubbish before putting it in the black top bin.

For hygiene, health, and safety reasons, some items require extra care when you dispose of them.

You should:

- double bag hygiene waste like dog poo, cat litter or menstrual pads
- wrap sharp items like broken glass or nails to prevent injury

- allow coal and wood ash to cool before putting them in the bin
- [request a clinical waste collection](#) for clinical waste like syringes or needles
- [book a hazardous waste collection](#) for hazardous waste like bleach, weed killer or household cleaning products

## If the item is large for your black top bin

If the item is large, you may need to:

- [book a bulky waste collection](#)
- donate it to charity
- take it to the [reuse and recycling centre](#)
- pass it on through a reuse network like [Freecycle](#)

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