

Disposing of Waste during Covid-19

This guidance note sets out how to dispose of your personal or business waste, including face coverings and personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, aprons etc. during the coronavirus pandemic and must be read in conjunction with the guidance on disposing of waste: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-disposing-of-waste>

1) Face coverings and personal protective equipment (PPE) used for social distancing

Disposal in the Workplace

- Items can be disposed of directly into the 'general' waste bins for normal collection
- You do not need to put them in an extra bag
- Items disposed of in the workplace do not need to be stored for any period of time prior to collection
- Extra bins should be provided for staff and members of the public to throw away their waste face coverings and PPE used for social distancing and any other additional waste
- Ensure bins are emptied regularly
- Ensure that staff and members of the public do not put face coverings and PPE in any of the recycling bins as they cannot be recycled through conventional recycling facilities

NOTE! If you are managing a suspected or confirmed outbreak of coronavirus the above does not apply and you must follow the guidance on cleaning non-healthcare settings at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Disposal at Home

- These items should be placed in a plastic rubbish bag and placed in your 'general' waste bin for normal collection
- You do not need to put them in an extra bag
- Unless you are self-isolating (see below) items disposed of in the home do not need to be stored for any period of time prior to collection

- Do not put face coverings and PPE in any of your recycling bins as they cannot be recycled through conventional recycling facilities

Disposal Outside

- Items can be disposed of directly into a 'general' waste litter bin. If there is no outside bin available they must be disposed of in the workplace or at home. Do not drop them as litter.
- Do not put face coverings and PPE in any of the recycling bins as they cannot be recycled through conventional recycling facilities

2) If you are self-isolating

To dispose of any face coverings or PPE that you or members of your household use when self-isolating, you should:

- Double bag the items ensuring both bags are tied at the top
- Store them for 72 hours before putting them in your 'general' waste bin
- Do not put any of items in your recycling bin as they cannot be recycled through conventional recycling facilities

If you or a member of your household is self-isolating at home, follow the stay at home guidance on how to dispose of cleaning materials at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

3) Waste from workplace cleaning activities

Additional waste such as cloths and wipes produced due to extra cleaning of work places, business premises and public places during coronavirus can be disposed of directly into the 'general' waste bins for normal collection

You do not need to put them in an extra bag and they do not need to be stored for any period of time prior to collection.

