

**13 Oct 2011**

## **Contamination of green waste can result in non-collection or the waste going to landfill**

The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership is reminding residents to take extra care with the waste they put in their green waste recycling bins.

Cllr Daniel Chichester-Miles, Portfolio Holder for Environmental said: "There's a problem at the moment with the amount of plastics cropping up in composting loads. If this is spotted at the kerbside, your bin won't be collected. If the contaminated waste makes it to a recycling facility, the whole load may be rejected and then has to be sent to landfill, which has both financial and environmental consequences."

Contamination of green waste occurs when non-compostable items are placed in the green waste bin.

The following can be put into green waste bins:

- All food waste - including food scraps, peelings/bones (both raw & cooked), meat, fish, dairy, bread, fruit, vegetables, tea bags, coffee grounds and egg shells. This can be wrapped in newspaper.
- Compostable bags made from paper and carrying the following symbol:



- Garden waste - including grass / hedge cuttings, leaves, twigs, small branches (cut up), real Christmas trees (cut up), flowers / dead headings, potted plants (without the pots), woody prunings, weeds, straw / hay (including small animal bedding - anything organic that rots easily).
- Simple, natural cardboard - including brown corrugated cardboard (no sellotape, parcel tape or adhesives), toilet roll / kitchen roll tubes, cereal packets, shredded paper, cardboard egg boxes (with non-compostable labels removed), tissues, paper towels, envelopes (without windows).

The following contaminate the waste, resulting in non-collection or having to send the waste to landfill:

- All types of plastic. This includes plastic films, black plastic refuse sacks, plastic supermarket carrier bags, plastic flower pots, polystyrene seedling trays and any ridged plastic (such as toys like lego).
- Laminated, waxed and foil lined cardboard packaging (for example 'Tetra Paks' - juice cartons or washing powder boxes).
- Textiles.
- Treated wood.
- Glossy Paper and Magazines.
- Glass.
- Metal.
- Ceramics and Hardcore.
- Soil.
- Carpets.
- Furniture.
- Duvets and pillows.
- Nappies.
- Fire ash
- Dead animals.
- Pet faeces.
- Hazardous wastes. This includes garden chemicals, asbestos etc.

Cllr Daniel Chichester-Miles, Portfolio Holder for Environmental continued:  
 "Our residents have really taken to recycling green waste and it's a shame that a few people putting the wrong waste in the wrong bins could undo everyone's great work. Please take a moment to think about whether the right things are going in the right bins. And if in doubt, leave it out!"

Advice about recycling, collections and what can go in different bins is available on [www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling). More advice on recycling is available on [www.wasteaware.org.uk](http://www.wasteaware.org.uk).