

Household waste permits and waste charges Changes from August 2015

What is the permit scheme?

The permit scheme was introduced in 2004 so that Northumberland residents could gain permission to dispose of their own household waste and small amounts of DIY waste at a Household Waste Recovery Centres using a vehicle other than a car – for example a van, trade type vehicle or trailer longer than one and a half metres (5ft).

Which vehicles need a permit?

Vehicles needing a permit include (but are not restricted to) a van, a pick-up, a Landover with removable canopy, any type of trailer longer than 5ft (measurement of the outside body not including the hitch).

Are any vehicles banned from the sites?

Some vehicles are not allowed onto the sites due to the operational problems they cause, increased risk to health and safety of other users, or due to the large volumes of waste that they have the potential to carry.

Banned vehicles include those with more than four wheels, trailers longer than three metres, vehicles greater than 3.5 Tonnes, horse-drawn wagons and very large vans or lorries.

Is any waste material banned from the sites?

The sites are not licensed for business waste (see below).

In addition there are some items which are classed as Hazardous which the sites CAN accept, and there are some items which are classed as Hazardous which the sites CANNOT accept.

Hazardous items such as fridges, TVs, tyres and engine oil are acceptable at the HWRCs.

Alternative arrangements have been made for a collection from your property for certain dangerous chemicals and asbestos. If you think that any items in your waste are hazardous AND they are not items which are usually accepted at the HWRC visit our webpage on [Hazardous Household waste](#) for further advice.

Do I need to accurately describe what I am bringing in with a permit?
It is important that only householders bringing in their own

Why is there a permit scheme?

The sites are licensed and designed to allow residents to dispose of small quantities of their own excess waste. The council is working with SITA UK (who manage the sites) to identify residents who attempt to deposit excessive amounts of waste, and people disposing of waste which is not their own household waste.

Have the rules changed since they were first introduced in 2004?

There have been some minor changes to the rules in the last ten years, but following a recent review it was concluded that more changes were needed.

Why have the new rules been introduced?

When a review was carried out it was agreed that the permit scheme in Northumberland was very generous compared with other local authorities, and that it was costing the council tax payers of Northumberland a lot of money in charges for waste which the council does not have a duty to dispose of.

What are the changes to the rules?

The new rules relate to number of permits allowed and the quantity of DIY waste allowed in a twelve month period from each single household.

How many permits am I allowed?

The maximum number of permits allowed for each residential property is now 12 per permit year. The limit of 12 applies to ALL types of waste.

You cannot get permits for addresses other than your own. If we find that people are making applications in this way we will consider putting a stop on current permits and future applications.

You do not need to order all your permits at one time – in fact we would strongly recommend that you don't order them all at one time.

What do you mean by a 'permit birthday year'?

The permit birthday year for your household starts when you request your first permit after 1st September 2014. E.g. If you requested a permit in December 2014, you could apply for a maximum of 11 more between December 2014 and November 2015. So your individual permit year will always be December to the following November. At the end of each permit year your record is reset to zero again.

If I have used my quota of 12 permits in a year, when can I have another 12 permits?

You can reapply for new permits after the end of your permit year, when the household total is reset to zero. If you try and apply for permits, the system will advise you when your new permit year starts again. See the previous question about how we work out your permit year.

How long do the permits last?

The permits can be used any time within that twelve month permit birthday year (see above for explanation). Residents tell us that it is difficult to predict too far in advance what they will want to dispose of, so we would recommend that you only request permits for your immediate needs.

Can I use all my permits up at once?

Residents who use the site many times in a very short period of time should be aware that they may be depriving other visitors of the ability to dispose of their waste, due to the limited capacity of any container.

If you have a genuine and urgent need to bring in a large quantity of waste over a short period of time, please discuss your needs with the site attendants, who are best placed to advise you of when containers are next serviced etc, but please be aware you will still need one permit per visit.

How much DIY waste am I allowed to dispose of in any one year?

There is an annual limit of six cubic yards - or the equivalent of a single transit van load of DIY waste from a property which includes all fixtures and fittings, rubble, plasterboard, bricks, kitchen units and bathroom suites.

A new system will keep track of how many cubic yards of DIY waste you have tipped so far in the year so that we can advise you when you have neared or reached your limit. Once you have used your limit you will need to make private arrangements to dispose of any more you have that year.

If I used up my full annual limit of six cubic yards of DIY waste, but I hadn't used all my 12 permits. Can I still use the rest of my permits that year?

Yes, you could use up the rest of your permits on non-DIY waste that year, even if you have used your quota for DIY waste.

When will the new rules begin?

The new rules began on 1st September 2014.

How can I apply for a permit?

Residents can make their applications online at www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste, by telephone on 0345 600 6400, or by calling in at one of the council information points. Permits can be sent by email (for you to take on your phone to the site or to print at home), you can collect a printed one from one of the Council Information points, or you can ask for one to be printed and sent out by post. Some council information points have the facility to print them and hand them over straight away.

Can my permit be emailed to me so that I can print it off?

Yes, it is now possible to do that, or you can take the permit to the site as an email on your smart phone. Please remember to take your photographic proof of ID and a utility bill with you when you go to the site. The Site Attendant has the authority to deny you access to the site if you do not have this proof.

What do I do when our property has used up its quota of 12 permits?

If you want to get rid of excess **garden waste** you might like to consider a home compost bin which will enable you to make good quality soil conditioner to use in your own garden.

Many households in Northumberland are eligible for **kerbside garden waste collections**.

Subscribers have told us that they like the scheme because they can:-

- 'feed the bin whilst they weed',
- they don't need to buy bags to wrap it in,
- they don't need to mess their car up with grass etc
- they don't need to use up their petrol/diesel to take it to the HWRC; and
- the cost works out at just over £1 per trip, which for many people is cheaper than turning on the car engine.

There is a charge for home compost bins and kerbside garden waste collections.

If you have excess **general waste/ recycling/ DIY waste** you could ask the council to quote for collection. You can also ask a private company for a quote, enquire about skip hire (see the yellow pages) or pay for a waste bag service (ask at your local DIY store). A charge will apply for these options.

The council can also advise you of the cost of collection of bulky waste items which are too large for your wheeled bins.

Will these other choices cost me money?

Yes, the alternatives to using the Household Waste Recovery Centre or your kerbside wheeled bins will all command a cost.

Why should I pay to get rid of my waste when I pay my council tax?

Each home in Northumberland produces, on average, one tonne of waste per year. There is an environmental and financial impact with all waste, so it is in everyone's best interest to reduce the amount of waste produced. Households undertaking property renovations who are consistently disposing of large quantities of waste, and also business operations illegally using the sites, are doing so at the cost of other council tax payers.

How can I arrange collection of my DIY waste if I haven't space for a skip?

If your household has excess waste and also limited outside space, you may like to enquire about the waste bag service at some of the National DIY stores. You buy the size of bag you need, fill it up and then agree a date for collection. The emptying cost will depend on the size of the bag you buy. One of the advantages over a skip is that you may be able to place it within your own property so you won't need a skip licence.

Can other people in my house also get permits?

The quota of 12 applies to the whole household not each individual.

Do I need to bring any proof of identification to show the site attendant when using my permit?

We would recommend that you always have available photograph identification when you visit the site, in order to prove that you live at the property to which the permit relates.

A relative has died so I need to clear his/her property.

Discretion can be used regarding production of permits in sensitive situations. However as this option has been abused by some customers in the past you will be required to provide full photographic ID every time you use a permit for your deceased relative's property and a record of those visits will be kept on file. These applications will need to be referred to the central waste team. Please fill in a permit request form and add information in the notes box.

I have recently moved to this property and the year's quota has been used up by previous occupants.

We understand that this may happen from time to time and will look at each application and consider changing your 'Permit Birthday' in a case by case basis. These applications will be considered after we have checked the facts of your case, checked when you started paying Council Tax etc. Some cases will need to be referred to the Contracts and Commercial team for consideration. Please phone us to discuss applications for changing the permit Birthday for your property.

How will I know whether I have reached my DIY quota?

The new permit application will require you to report accurately items and quantities of DIY waste. Failure to do so will lead to refusal to tip. The balance of your DIY allowance will be

adjusted for each permit application to show how many cubic yards you have left in your 12 month period.

What if I don't accurately describe the waste I want to tip?

It is in your interest to accurately describe the waste on your permit in order to avoid any problems which may arise when you visit the site. The site attendant will check that your permit reflects the waste you want to tip and will either:

- accept your permit and allow you to tip;
- reject your permit and refuse permission to tip what you carry;
- allow you to tip some items but not others; or
- allow you to tip providing you agree to your record being updated with the goods you have tipped which may include the site attendant making arrangements for the adjustment of the DIY balance.

I am a landlord - how do I get rid of things which tenants have left in the property?

Any waste which you have in your possession due to being a landlord is classed as trade waste and therefore you are not allowed to use the HWRCs.

You have some choices available to you, all of which will be chargeable:

- You could ask the council to quote for collection;
- You can ask a private company for a quote for collections and/or disposal;
- You could enquire about skip hire (see the yellow pages); or
- You can pay for a waste bag service (ask at your local DIY store – more information above).

I would like to get rid of my business waste, waste from my office, waste from my property development, my gardening business etc where can I go with it?

Any waste produced from these scenarios is NOT classed as household waste and therefore **cannot** be accepted at the Household Waste Recovery Centres. You have some choices available to you, all of which will be chargeable:

- You could ask the council to quote for collection;
- You can ask a private company for a quote for collections and/or disposal;
- You could enquire about skip hire (see the yellow pages); or
- You can pay for a waste bag service (ask at your local DIY store).

My neighbour has no transport, and I do. Can I take his waste for him and whose address should be on the permit?

Your neighbours can ask you to help them, but the waste is your neighbour's waste, therefore they should be with it, the permit should be in their name and they should have their ID with them when you both visit the site. You may be asked to sign a legal declaration when you arrive at the site to declare that it is not waste that has been produced by a business. You CANNOT drive your customer to the site with his waste and tip off as household waste.

My community has carried out a local clean up / litter pick, how do I get rid of the waste?

We are very supportive of community initiatives and would look to help you with your waste disposal needs wherever possible. Each request for help will be considered on a case by case basis so that we can make the best arrangement for both your group and our operations. Please phone for further advice.

Our charity, church or school has waste; can we have permits for someone to take waste to the HWRC?

As waste coming from your charity, church or school is not your own household waste we cannot issue permits under the HWRC permit scheme. The advice we give you will depend on nature of the waste, quantities etc. Please phone during office hours for further advice.

I am a tradesmen carrying out work for a customer who has no transport. Can I take his waste into the HWRC if he comes with me?

The waste produced by the tradesman is business waste; therefore it would be a breach of the site licence and an offence under the Environmental Protection Act for him to do that, even if you accompanied him in the vehicle.

You will need to either make a private arrangement to dispose of the waste, as described above under business waste, or ask the householder to pay for a bulky collection via the council, other private waste company or similar. Your price for the job should take the chosen option into account.

I got permits but didn't use them, can I hand them back in and have my quotas re-credited?

We would strongly recommend that you do not over-order your permits. By just ordering the number of permits you need in the immediate future you are more likely to be able to accurately describe the waste you are bringing in for each permit. This will avoid the time delay that would be incurred by returning permits and amending your record to allow for re-issue.

What if there are mistakes on the permit/s?

Please double check your details before submitting an on-line application (especially with regard to your address and vehicle registration).

Please always check the details on your permits for accuracy as soon as you receive them, and make the site attendant aware of any incorrect information when you arrive at the site.

Permits are only valid if the details match the vehicle, the waste and the ID of the waste owner, who should be with the vehicle. Care should be taken to give those details accurately to avoid the need to return them to us, have your record amended and allow for re-issue, all of which will take time.

Definition of rubble etc

Charging

6 cu yard limit