Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) changes to restricted reopening

From Friday 22nd May, Todmorden HWRC will follow Halifax and Brighouse to reopen with restrictions. No other HWRCs will be open. The 3 open HWRCs will accept wood and metal, as well as general, bulky and garden waste. No electricals or other types of waste will be accepted. Todmorden site entry is via left turn only.

Frequently Asked Questions

General information:

This is a phased reopening and we anticipate the Centres to be extremely busy. The most recent government guidance defines visiting a household waste recycling centre (HWRC) as an acceptable reason for a resident to leave home during the lockdown, however please consider if your trip is necessary. Could waste be stored safely at home? The kerbside household waste and recycling collections are continuing as normal and should be sufficient to remove essential waste from your property.

If you are visiting the HWRC, expect delays when you visit, please be patient. Wash your hands or use sanitiser before and after your visit, avoid touching railings and other surfaces, and adhere to any instructions from site staff.

If people disregard social distancing, or if queueing traffic causes concerns on surrounding roads, the sites may have to close again for safety. Please be patient and follow the directions of site staff.

Important information about personal waste and Covid-19

Do not attend the HWRC if you are self-isolating or are have COVID-19 symptoms. If anyone in your household has had COVID-19 symptoms, then the waste should be double bagged and stored for 72 hours before being brought to site. If anyone in your household has Coronavirus symptoms, please dispose of your personal waste following Government guidance, this includes: nappies and sanitary products, tissues and used paper towels, wet wipes and cleaning cloths.

Q: Which HWRCs are opening and when?


Opening times: Monday to Friday 8am - 4.30pm, Saturday 8am - 3.30pm, Sunday 9am - 3.30pm (early closure to allow time for cleaning)

Q: What can I take to the Household Waste Recycling Centres at Todmorden, Halifax and Brighouse?

A: Only take bagged general waste, bulky waste (non-electrical), garden waste, wood and metal. Bulky waste is waste that cannot fit into your normal bin collection and includes free-standing household furniture (e.g. tables, wardrobes, cabinets) and
items such as large toys, beds / bed frames, mattresses, carpet, rugs, underlay, prams and pushchairs, sofas, chairs, armchairs. Only bring items you are able to unload alone, as only one person allowed per car and site staff are unable to help unload. We are working in line with Government guidance. With social distancing measures in place, we will have a one in, one out system. By limiting entry to just the most popular waste streams; general waste, garden waste, wood and metal, we can provide additional skips for these items. This will protect staff and visitors as it reduces the need for people to walk around on site to dispose of different wastes, keeps visits short as unloading is faster, which allows the traffic to flow better, reducing queuing times. Please do not bring any other types of waste or recycling, as the skips will not be available for other waste. For example we cannot accept electrical items, fridges, freezers, DIY waste, building rubble and waste, tiles, plasterboard, cardboard (this can go in your weekly recycling collection). This list is not exhaustive and you will be advised by site staff to take home any items not accepted. This will be reviewed as Government issues new guidance.

Q: Do I need to take proof of address?

A: Yes. Calderdale Household Waste Recycling Centres are only for residents living in Calderdale to dispose of their household waste. Please display proof of residency on your windscreen, eg driving licence, your recent council tax bill, annual water bill or utility bill, or resident permit if you have one for Brighouse.

Q: Why are the Centres reopening now? What’s changed?

A: Government guidance around opening up the Recycling Centres has changed and we recognise that many of us are producing more waste whilst spending time at home, so to ease pressure on the bin collections, we are now able to open Halifax, Brighouse and Todmorden Household Waste Recycling Centres, with restrictions and traffic management, for general waste, bulky items (non-electrical), garden waste, wood and metal only. This is a phased reopening and will be continually reviewed following Government guidelines.

Q: Why are Household Waste Recycling Centres at Elland and Sowerby Bridge still closed?

A: It would not be safe to open these HWRCs yet because the layout and size makes social distancing difficult and queuing traffic would cause a problem on main roads.

Q: What should I expect when I visit?

A: There may be long delays. There may be short closure periods throughout the day for cleaning or skip exchanges. Queues are expected. Traffic will be managed and at busy times and close to closing time, cars may be turned away. Only a limited number of cars will be allowed on site at any time, with one person per car. In special circumstances, eg residents who are disabled or have limited mobility may need to bring a passenger to assist them, however only one person should get out of the car to unload the waste, to comply with social distancing.

While queueing, stay inside your vehicle and switch off the engine in standing traffic, no idling, to protect staff and other visitors.
The Centres have been reorganised with skips only available for general waste, including non-electrical bulky waste, garden waste, wood and metal. Social distancing measures must be followed. Site staff are not able to help with unloading, please only bring items that you can unload safely alone.

Only cars and small vans are allowed on site. No transit-type vans/commercial vehicles or trailers of any type.

At Todmorden, for highway safety, entrance to the site is by LEFT TURN ONLY. Please approach from the Hebden Bridge direction. If you are travelling from Todmorden, please go past the HWRC for approximately 5 minutes and use the turning circle on A646 Halifax Road to approach the HWRC from the left.

Q: Why are there additional traffic restrictions at Todmorden?
A: For highway safety, traffic cannot queue for a right turn into the HWRC as this would be dangerous for both the HWRC visitors and to other road users, and cause delays to traffic. Queueing traffic will be managed across the frontage of the HWRC and entry will be from by LEFT TURN ONLY. Please approach from the Hebden Bridge direction. If you are travelling from Todmorden, please go past the HWRC for approximately 5 minutes and use the turning circle on A646 Halifax Road to enable you to approach Todmorden HWRC from the left.

Q: Why can't I walk into a site?
A: Pedestrian access is not allowed at Household Waste Recycling Centres, due to safety concerns. The Centres are very busy, and designed for vehicle access, not pedestrian access. Following social distance guidelines SUEZ operatives will not be able to take any waste from visitors.

Q: Some HWRCs in other parts of the country can take all types of waste and recycling, why can't Calderdale?
A: Each HWRC is different in layout and location. At the moment, it is only safe to open Halifax, Brighouse and Todmorden with additional traffic management, to keep to social distancing and to avoid dangerous queues on main roads.

In order to keep traffic moving and get people through the Household Waste Recycling Centre as quickly and safely as possible, you can only take general waste, bulky waste (non-electrical), garden waste, wood and metal.

Q: Can I use a transit van?
A: No, transit vans cannot use the sites at the moment, even with an existing van permit, due to space and time taken unloading. New permits will not be issued at this time.

We are continually reviewing the situation and following Government issued guidelines. Please regularly check the Council website for updates.

Q: What do I do with garden waste?
A: We have restarted the garden waste collections for existing subscribers, but cannot take any new subscribers at this time. We can accept garden waste at the HWRCs, but please consider whether you can store or compost garden waste at home.

Q: I have been doing some DIY at home. Can I bring the waste?

A: No, please store this waste at home. The Centres have opened for essential use only. We will only be accepting bagged general waste, bulky waste (non-electrical), garden waste, wood and metal; skips for other items will not be available.

This is a phased reopening and will be continually reviewed following Government guidelines.

Q: What should I do with electrical items?

A: Small electrical items can be taken on your weekly recycling collections. Large electrical items must be stored until the electrical bulky waste collection service can resume, or until HWRCs can open more fully. Please do not bring electrical items to the Recycling Centre as you will be asked to take them home.

Q: What can I do with my old fridge or other white goods?

A: Please store safely at home. Many retailers offer a recycling service and take back your old appliance when you buy a new one. There may be a charge for this service.

Q: I have furniture to donate. Are the furniture reuse containers open?

A: No, the Revive reuse shop is closed until further notice. Please store these items at home because they will want your donation when they open again.