

New Garden Waste subscription service

Opt in to continue receiving
fortnightly collections

From
**1 March
2025**



Love Your
Chelmsford



Chelmsford
City Council

If you live within the Chelmsford City Council district, your garden waste collections are changing. From **1 March**, your brown bin will only be emptied if you're a subscriber.

We're keeping the subscription as cheap as possible. For most households who decide to sign up, it's **a yearly payment of £60**. We collect garden waste all year round, so the yearly payment is equal to £5 a month.

Why is this now a paid service?

Gardening is a good thing to do – it keeps you active, connects you to nature, and can provide food. We'd rather not charge, and Chelmsford City Council is one of the last Essex councils to ask for garden waste payment, but times are difficult. Councils all over the country are having to prune which services they offer free of charge.



Your city council is funded by:

Council Tax

The city council only receives 10% of what you pay.

Government funding

The council gets less than it did in 2010.

Income

From services like our leisure centres and car parks.



Out of this, we provide lots of vital services, including:

Emergency housing for around 500 households.

Dealing with litter, waste and recycling.

Making sure rented accommodation and food businesses are safe.

Looking after our parks and play areas.

The cost of these, especially homelessness, has risen hugely across the country and councils are struggling. The new garden waste service will be more financially sustainable and will help essential services to keep going.

Find out more at: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/gardenwaste

How much will it cost?

One brown bin	£60 per year
Discounted rate (for households on Council Tax Support)	£45 per year
Second brown bin (if you have two and want both to be emptied)	£30 per year

How do you know who's paid?

Once you subscribe, you'll get a **sticker to put on the back of your bin**, underneath the handle.

Your collection crew will only take your garden waste if they see the sticker, so make sure you **put it on your bin as soon as you receive it!**

How do I sign up?

Garden waste collections stay free until **28 February**. You can sign up any time from now to keep getting your bin collected after that date.

Subscribe online at **www.chelmsford.gov.uk/gardenwastesignup** or scan the QR code. This will pay for a whole year's collections until 28 February 2026.



What if I don't want to subscribe?

You don't have to subscribe if you don't want to. There are other, free ways to get rid of garden waste:



Compost it in your own back garden. It's great for the environment and you can either make your own compost bin from materials like scrap wood, or buy one.



Recycle it at any Essex County Council recycling centre.



Check if your local area has a neighbourhood composting scheme.

What goes in the brown bin?

- ✓ grass cuttings
- ✓ hedge and shrub trimmings
- ✓ twigs and leaves
- ✓ weeds
- ✓ dead plants
- ✓ bracken
- ✓ small branches and cut-up Christmas trees

Do not use the brown bin for:

- ✗ soil
- ✗ pet poo or pet bedding
- ✗ kitchen scraps (these go in the food waste bin)



What can I compost?

Composting is another way of dealing with garden waste, for the planet and your garden. You can compost everything above, except branches, trees and invasive weeds or their seeds. You can compost the following:

- straw
- old fruit and veg
- any raw household veg scraps
- coffee grounds
- eggshells
- torn-up paper and cardboard
- pet fur
- real wool
- small amounts of wood ash
- pet poo, if your pet only eats plants

Top composting tip!

Try to mix 50-75% dry, brown material.



Sign up to our newsletters at: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/maillinglist