

Waste Management Policy

Approved September 2025

Aims

- To keep the site clean, safe and free of hazardous or non-recyclable waste.
- To reduce, reuse and recycle materials wherever possible.
- To protect the soil and environment for current and future tenants.
- To ensure all plots are left in good condition at the end of tenancy.

Application

This policy applies to:

- All tenants and helpers on site.
- All materials brought onto, stored on, or removed from plots.
- The whole site, including communal areas.

It supports and is enforceable under:

- Rule 9 – Waste materials and pollutants
- Rule 10 – Structures and fences
- Rule 14 – Deposits
- Rule 17 – Site safety and duty of care
- Rule 22 – Tenancy termination

Definitions

For the purposes of these rules:

- **Waste** – Any material not actively in use for cultivation, construction, or site maintenance.
- **Hazardous waste** – Substances or items harmful to people, soil or wildlife (e.g. asbestos, contaminated materials, chemicals).
- **Non-recyclable waste** – Items that cannot reasonably be composted, reused, or recycled and must be taken off site.
- **Reusable material** – Safe, clean material that can be used for cultivation or construction (e.g. pallets for compost bins).
- **Ground cover** – Materials used to suppress weeds. Only weed suppressant fabric, heavy-duty black plastic, or clean ink-free cardboard are permitted.
- **Duty of care** – A tenant's responsibility to manage their plot in a way that avoids leaving hazards, pollution, or waste for others to clear.

1. Duty of Care

Tenants must keep plots free of hazardous or unsuitable waste. Plots must be handed back in a safe, clean condition with no banned materials.

2. Deposit

All new tenants pay a deposit (Rule 14). Deposits are only returned if plots are left clean and safe, with no waste.

3. Banned Materials

Tenants must not bring or use:

- Asbestos
- Carpets, rugs, underlay
- Astroturf / artificial turf / fake grass
- Tyres
- Baths, toilets, sinks or plumbing fittings
- Broken glass (must be removed safely if found)
- Concrete poured for paths/posts
- uPVC doors/windows/panels
- Rubble, hardcore, contaminated waste
- Glass for greenhouses or structures – not permitted. If a structure is purchased new and supplied with glass panes, the expectation is that these are replaced with polycarbonate or another safe alternative at the time of construction.

4. Restricted Materials

- Slabs – Permitted for shed bases, paths and small seating areas, provided that:
 - The majority of the plot remains under active cultivation.
 - No more than a reasonable number are used (no large patios).
 - Slabs are not fixed with poured concrete; only postcrete bases may be used.
- Bricks – Limited for small jobs (e.g. edging or securing netting for crop protection).
- Scrap metal – Only at committee-approved collection points, never stored long-term on plots.

5. Permitted Materials

5.1. Netting and Crop Protection

- Netting, mesh and fleece may be used to protect crops from pests.
- Acceptable methods include **draping netting directly over beds and securing it with bricks, roof tiles or similar weights**, provided it is kept tidy and well-anchored.
- Netting must be:
 - **Wildlife-safe** – only fine mesh types such as butterfly netting, insect netting, or enviromesh should be used.

- **Securely fixed** so birds, hedgehogs and other wildlife cannot get trapped underneath or tangled.
- **Maintained in good condition** and removed when no longer needed.
- Wide-hole plastic netting, loose mesh, or damaged netting left trailing on the ground is **not permitted**.

5.2. Other permitted materials

- Weed suppressant fabric (purpose-made).
- Heavy-duty black plastic sheeting (temporary solarisation of weeds).
- Clean, ink-free cardboard (no tape, staples, coatings).
- Small amounts of safe timber, slabs or bricks, provided use is safe, tidy, and consistent with Rules 9 and 10.

6. Removal of Waste

- 6.1. Tenants must remove all non-compostable waste from the site (Rule 9).
- 6.2. Tenants asked to clear unsuitable items must do so within **one month**.
- 6.3. Failure to comply will lead to the **Breach Resolution Procedure**.

7. Recycling and Reuse

- 7.1. Tenants are encouraged to reuse safe materials and recycle where possible.
- 7.2. The committee may set up temporary recycling points (e.g. scrap metal).
- 7.3. Plastics, carpet, wood and general waste must **not** be left at recycling points.

8. New Tenants

New tenants must report any hazardous or banned items found on their plot (e.g. asbestos, baths, carpet, tyres) at the start of tenancy.

9. Review

- 9.1. These rules will be reviewed annually by the Committee, or sooner if laws or site circumstances change.

This policy was agreed at the AGM dated 14th September 2025

Next review is due: September 2026