WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

Supporting Fortnightly Garbage Service

Whitehorse households will move to a 4-bin waste and recycling service by 1 July 2027 as required by the Victorian Government to meet the Proposed Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards (2024).

As part of this consultation, there are two different service options being considered, with different frequencies for collecting the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and garbage bins. To allow enough time for our community and Council to prepare, the change to a 4-bin service will not begin until early 2027.

The 2 service options:

- 4-bin Service Option 1 - Garbage bin collected weekly. FOGO and Recycling bins collected fortnightly, Glass every 4-weeks.
- 4-bin Service Option 2 - FOGO bin collected weekly. Garbage and Recycling bins collected fortnightly, Glass every 4-weeks.

See page 4 of the Conversation Starter Kit for a full comparison of the 2 service options.

If we switched to collecting garbage bins fortnightly and FOGO bins weekly, we would need to understand how this change would impact our community.



Our current garbage service

The standard bin size for Whitehorse is currently an 80-litre bin. There is also an option to upsize or have an additional 120-litre or 240-litre bin for a fee.



80L **120L** **240L**

What we know right now:

Almost 40% of what goes into Whitehorse garbage bins is food waste. Once households start putting their food scraps in the FOGO bin, many households should have room in their garbage bin.

48% of Whitehorse households are made up of just one person or a couple with no kids. For these smaller households, an 80-litre bin would be big enough.

However, other Councils who have switched to collecting garbage every two weeks found that 80-litre bins weren't big enough for many households, so we want to hear from you what support you might need with a fortnightly garbage service.

Fortnightly garbage – nappies, medical needs and larger households

We know that some households will be impacted more than others by a fortnightly garbage service.

Those that may experience a greater impact include:

- large households,
- households with children in nappies,
- people with some medical conditions that might generate more waste than the average household.

To support these households, we're looking at ways to offer extra help if garbage is collected every 2 weeks. This could include giving eligible households a bigger or second bin (up to a limit) without any extra cost.

We'd like your feedback to help shape how this support could work.

If you have children in nappies
we would love for you to attend our 'Children in nappies Focus Group.

Book your spot today and receive a $50 voucher after attending.

Focus group details:

Tuesday 2 September, 10:30am - 11.30am
Vermont South Library,
Pavey Pl, Vermont Sth

How would I manage smells with a fortnightly garbage service?

Unfortunately, most bins smell. Experience from other Councils shows that once food is removed there is no difference in the smell of garbage bins after a fortnight when garbage, including nappies and other sanitary waste, was bagged or wrapped in plastic. A trial in Lake Macquarie Council 2014, showed that after 2 weeks, bins with nappies didn't smell much worse than regular bins after one week. The study also showed that odour levels did not increase with time or the number of nappies.

To help reduce smells:

- Flush solids down the toilet
- Wrap nappies tightly
- Keep the bin lid closed
- Store the bin in the shade

Reducing waste with cloth nappies

Disposable nappies remain popular for many families, but cloth nappies have improved dramatically over the past decade. Whether used occasionally or as a full-time option, they offer significant savings both financially and environmentally. They can also help reduce smells and free up space in your garbage bin.

Curious to see if they're right for your family? Explore the benefits, styles, and simple steps to get started by checking out our cloth nappies information on our website.

https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/waste-environment/sustainability/sustainability-home/nappy-period-products-program