

Household waste disposal in the Hanseatic City of Rostock



Wheelie bins located in front of small residential building



Wheelie bins in front of a large residential complex

According to § 46 of the **Closed-cycle Waste Management Act (Kreislaufwirtschaftsgesetz KrWG)**, it is the duty of the waste management authority to inform and advise citizens on the various possibilities they have for avoiding, recycling and disposing of waste. In § 2 and § 3, the **Waste Management Act in force in the German federal state of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania** sets out mandatory provisions for waste avoidance. Rostock's waste disposal bylaws therefore include instructions on waste avoidance and directions for waste-related advisory services.

The Waste Management Division of Rostock's Department for Environmental Protection is responsible for planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring measures that target the disposal and recycling of household waste and waste from other origins.

Waste holders in the Hanseatic City of Rostock (HRO) are informed about ways of [avoiding](#) and [re-using waste](#), about [waste separation](#), [recycling](#) and the [disposal of residual waste](#) through waste advisory services and PR work.

The objective is to make people more aware of these issues and to initiate a change in their behaviour. The city serves as a role model in matters of waste avoidance.

Private households generate waste for recycling and residual waste for disposal

Various waste containers (wheelie bins) are made available to households for kerbside waste collection.

Yellow bins are for collecting **light packaging**, blue bins are for **paper and cardboard**, brown bins are for **organic and food waste** while black bins are for **residual household waste**.



Light packaging



Paper and cardboard



Organic and food waste



Residual household waste

Household waste:

Households are served by a waste **pickup system**.

Household wheelie bins can have a volume of 80 litres, 120 litres, 240 litres and 1,100 litres.

All bins used for the collection of residual household waste, for cardboard and for organic and food waste are equipped with a **chip** automatically identifies the household they belong to.



Organic and garden waste / grass cuttings



Bin-washing truck at work



Emptying an organic waste bin



Compost bin for home composting

120 to 240-litre bins are used for the kerbside collection of household organic and food waste. This **pickup system** is used to dispose of the domestic organic waste of some 92 per cent of all households in Rostock. The system itself was introduced in Rostock in 1994.

If people have a property that is large enough, they have the option of **home composting**. Alternatively, people can deposit their **garden waste in containers** on their private property or bring their **cuttings to recycling centres**. They can also opt for twice-yearly **bundled green waste collection** by the refuse collector, in this case by the municipal utility Stadtentsorgung Rostock GmbH.

Once a year, the **organic bins are washed** by the bin-washing truck operated by the municipal waste management utility.

Light packaging

Households dispose of their **light packaging** separately via a **kerbside pickup system**. Bin sizes range from 120 litres, to 240 litres up to 1,100 litres. In addition, yellow bags are available from local authorities, at the recycling centres and at the Customer Service Centre operated by the municipal utility (Stadtentsorgung Rostock).

People in Rostock can also take large, bulky items of packaging to the city's four recycling centres (**drop-off system**).

Paper and cardboard packaging



Recycling collection point for paper and glass



Container for paper



Containers are emptied using the hook-lift hoist system



Underground containers

A **pickup** and a **drop-off system** are in operation for **paper, cardboard** and **corrugated cardboard packaging**. The **pickup system** involves kerbside collection in 120 litre, 240 litre or 1,100 litre bins. Rostock has some 17,164 blue bins in use for paper collection (status as at 31 March 2016).

The city has also made available a total of 107 large containers or underground containers where people can deposit their waste paper (**drop-off system**; status as at 31 March 2016). These containers are emptied using the hook-lift hoist system.

Furthermore, the people of Rostock can also bring large, bulky items of packaging to one of the four recycling centres (**drop-off system**).

Glass packaging



Large containers for glass waste



Glass container being emptied using the hook-lift system



Underground waste collection point for glass

Waste glass is collected using the **drop-off system**. Glass is separated according to colour and collected in large containers at the city's designated collection points for recyclable materials.

Underground collection points (8 containers) have been installed in particularly 'sensitive' areas (status as at 31 March 2016).

All of the collection systems are equipped with flaps to maintain their functionality. People can also bring glass packaging to the recycling sites.

Other typical kinds of household waste include:

E-waste:

People can take their electrical and electronic waste to the recycling centres or return to it to the shop they purchased it from. However, customers can also contact the municipal utility's Customer Service Centre to schedule the kerbside pickup of e-waste as often as required.

Bulky household waste:

Bulky waste is also collected from households as often as required. Pickup must be scheduled with the municipal utility's Customer Service Centre beforehand.

Hazardous waste:

The Hanseatic City of Rostock has **four recycling centres**. Operated by the municipal utility Stadtentsorgung Rostock GmbH on the city's behalf, these centres accept the following types of rubbish: bulky waste, old clothes and fabrics, batteries (also lithium and other high-energy batteries), electrical and electronic waste, garden and park waste, old fridges and freezers, scrap, hazardous household waste.



Photo of the recycling centre



The special collection vehicle
'Klar -Schiff-Mobil' ('Keep-it-tidy mobile')

Illegal dumping of waste

Illegally dumped waste is to be reported via the environmental hotline or online at www.klarschiff-hro.de.

The people of Rostock can access advice on waste-related matters by telephone, email or in person. A wide array of information is available on the internet at www.rostock.de. PR work focuses, amongst other things, on information materials such as brochures, flyers, posters, the environmental calendar and direct media inputs.