

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)
Household Waste
Van and Trailer Permit Scheme (Permit Scheme)

In September 2019¹ the GMCA adopted a policy that placed controls on vehicular access to its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and certain other waste facilities where household waste is disposed of by householders and managed by our contractor SUEZ within Greater Manchester (Waste Facilities). Subsequently the GMCA approved the introduction of a permit system to manage the use of specified vehicle types (commercial-type vehicles) by householders delivering their own household waste². In July 2023 the Policy was reviewed and revised amending these terms and conditions.

These terms and conditions cover the Permit Scheme for residents of Greater Manchester³ who own or who have authorised access to Applicable Vehicles or twin axle trailers and use them for the disposal of their household waste at Waste Facilities.

Please read the following permit Terms and Conditions. In completing the application process you agree to these Terms and Conditions in order to obtain your permit.

Excluded vehicles

For clarity, the following categories of vehicles (whether a van, vehicle, pick up or double axle trailer) **will not** be given a permit or allowed entry to a HWRC:

- Vehicles designed primarily to provide a service or to carry goods, not people (e.g., flatbed trucks, caged tippers, tail lift vehicles, car recovery and transportation vehicles);
- Vehicles exceeding 3.5t gross vehicle weight.
- Vehicles exceeding 5.3m in length.
- A trailer (whether single or double axle) that was not purposely designed and built as a goods carrying trailer. For example, trailers adapted from caravans, trailer tents, sub-frames, chassis etc. will be refused a permits and/or entry into the HWRCs; and
- Agricultural machinery and vehicles, (including horse boxes).

Applicable vehicles for the purposes of this Permit Scheme include:

- Car-derived vans e.g., a vehicle built on a car chassis but with e.g., with panel sides or side facing windows and no rear seats.
- Open backed pickups.
- Purpose-built vans within length and weight limits; and
- Double axle trailers manufactured for the purpose of carrying goods (including waste).

For any vehicles:

- length must be less than 5.3m.
- gross weight must be less than 3.5t.

1. **The Permit Scheme is strictly for household waste and recyclables.** Trade Waste is strictly not permitted to be disposed of at Waste Facilities. Site staff have the right to turn away anyone suspected of bringing Trade Waste to site whether or not a permit has been issued. There are many commercial facilities across Greater Manchester that accept Trade Waste. In addition, through its contractor, the GMCA provides facilities for the deposit of Trade Waste for a charge. For the location of such facilities please visit:

<https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/how-do-i-get-rid-of-business-waste/>

¹ https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s2208/GMCA_HWRC_Access_Restrictions_Report_Sept19.pdf

² [https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s8545/HWRC_Access %20Policy PartA_Report plus AppendixA WRC 22Jul20.pdf](https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s8545/HWRC_Access_%20Policy_PartA_Report_plus_AppendixA_WRC_22Jul20.pdf)

Trade Waste is defined as waste arising from any trade, business, industrial or commercial activities. Furthermore, anyone who has received any payment/reward for carrying waste or produces waste from their work is carrying Trade Waste and cannot take this waste to any of the listed GMCA Waste Facilities for disposal as household waste.

2. For safety, householders must comply with site signage/markings and the instruction of site staff as well as all waste acceptance policies for the Waste Facilities. Details of what can be accepted at the Waste Facilities can be found on the GMCA's website at:

<https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/recycling-centre-guide/>

Permit holders must segregate their waste so that the quantities recycled can be maximised.

3. Intimidating, threatening or abusive behaviour towards staff or other site users will not be tolerated. Action will be taken to pursue offenders including any person who fails to comply with site safety at any Waste Facility. All sites have CCTV and staff wear bodycams. Permits will be revoked and/or a person can be barred from attending any Waste Facility where a site user has failed to comply with site safety, intimidates, threatens or is abusive to staff or other site users.
4. Access to Waste Facilities will be refused for Applicable Vehicles or double axle trailers without a valid permit.
5. A permit allows Greater Manchester³ residents to access the Waste Facilities with a specified commercial-type vehicle or trailer to dispose of their own household waste subject to the visit number limits detailed below. The permitted visits per year for each vehicle type are:
 - Van up to 3.5t gross vehicle weight – 18 visits per year.
 - Car plus double axle trailer – 18 visits per year.
 - Open back pick up – 18 visits per year
 - Cars, MPV, SUVs or equivalent vehicles with no adaptations are permitted to have 52 visits per year: and
 - Short term hired vehicles are subject to the same number of visits for their vehicle classification.

³ For the purposes of the GMCA's Permit Scheme Greater Manchester residents are those residing in Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, or Trafford. Wigan has its own arrangements and HWRC facilities for its residents to use.

Examples of how the permit allocation for vehicles towing a double axle trailer works

Example: 1 - Van towing a double axle trailer	
Annual visit allocation	Annual allocation remaining after visit
(i) Van carrying waste on its own has 18 permitted visits each year	(i) Van on its own now has 17 visits remaining
(ii) Van and trailer combination has 18 permitted visits each year (Van is not carrying waste but trailer is carrying waste)	(i) If for one visit the site operative deems the van does not contain waste, a single visit allocation will be deducted and there will be 17 visits remaining.
(iii) Waste-containing van and trailer combination has a combined total of 18 permitted visits each year (Van and trailer are both carrying waste)	(i) This will count as a double visit and would reduce the annual allocation (for the van and trailer combination) to 16.
Example: 2 - Unadapted car towing a double axle trailer	
Annual visit allocation	Annual allocation remaining after visit
(i) Car has 52 permitted visits each year	(i) Car now has 51 visits remaining
(ii) Trailer has 18 permitted visits each year	(i) Trailer now has 17 visits remaining
*If the car then visits without the trailer, the car allocation reduces to 50 and the trailer remains at 17.	

6. Site operatives have the right to refuse entry to:

- a. any vehicles appearing to carry Trade Waste; and/or
- b. applicable vehicles without a permit and where the GMCA or its Contractor, at their discretion, believe a permit is required.

Applicable vehicles are those not included under the “**Excluded vehicles**” heading above but:

- are designed to carry goods, not people.
- with no rear side facing windows.
- with no rear seats (whether by design or removed).
- with an open back.
- with a back which is separate to the main cab area.
- are less than 5.3m in length.
- are less than 3.5t gross vehicle weight; and/or
- any other vehicles or adapted vehicles which are of a similar or equivalent commercial nature.

7. Only one permit will be granted per household and for one nominated vehicle registered at the same household address. If a household has more than one applicable vehicle, they will have to decide which applicable vehicle they require a permit for. It is not permissible to apply for a permit for multiple applicable vehicles from the same address or for the same vehicle registration to be issued with a permit from multiple addresses. Attempts to do so may result in an application failing or the later revocation of the permit.
8. Proof of address evidence is a copy of the current Council Tax bill or other utility bill. Failure to upload suitable evidence of address will result in application failure or revocation of a permit even after issue.
9. Proof of vehicle registration (pages 1 and 2 of the V5C document) is required as part of the online registration process. Failure to upload this document will result in the failure of the permit application. The address on the V5C document must be the same as the one on the evidence uploaded to demonstrate the address.
10. Permits will only be issued to householders who intend to deposit their own household waste and applicants will be required to declare this as part of the application process. If a vehicle is carrying Trade Waste, it will need to comply with the relevant legislation⁴ and is not permitted to enter any GMCA Waste Facilities to dispose of this waste as if it is household waste.
11. The GMCA may check information provided by the permit applicant with, for example, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Environment Agency, local authority enforcing departments etc. If necessary, information will be passed to the Police.
12. If you visit any of the GMCA Waste Facilities more than once in one day, each visit will be counted separately as one permitted visit for a vehicle and two for a vehicle and trailer combination where waste is carried in each.
13. Applicable vehicles and/or trailers, which have been hired by a householder to deposit household waste, are permitted to enter the Waste Facilities but will also need to apply for a hire vehicle permit. In addition, the householder will be required to bring the hire agreement with them and present it to site staff upon arrival. A permit for a hire vehicle is only valid for a single day and hirers of vehicles will need to apply for a new permit on a daily basis. These visits will be deducted from the household allowance. Van hirers are **strongly advised** to check the eligibility of the vehicle they intend to hire in advance of applying for a permit. The GMCA is not responsible for any costs associated for the hiring of a vehicle that is refused entry because it does not meet the criteria for Applicable Vehicles.
14. The permit is only valid for the applicable vehicle and/or trailer as registered on the application. Permits are approved per address and by vehicle/trailer, so any member of your household may visit the site with this vehicle and/or trailer. Alternatively, you may designate a driver to help you bring your household waste to the site, provided that you, as the producer and owner of the waste, accompany them and you have not paid for this service. If for any reason you are unable to accompany your own household waste to the site, please email gmcavanpermit.uk@suez.com to seek further advice. If you change your vehicle or address the details must be changed on the permit system for the permit to still be valid.
15. If you lend your permitted van to a family member, friend, or neighbour (for example) the visit will be deducted from your remaining allocation of permits.
16. Once the annual permit allocation has been used additional visits will not be granted.
17. Any car, MPV or SUV or other vehicle that appears to have been adapted to operate like a van (such as through the removal of seating to increase internal capacity) and appears to be an applicable vehicle will need to register as a van. Site operatives have the right to refuse entry of such vehicles without a permit. Equally the use of anything towed that was not originally designed for the purpose of carrying goods is not permitted and will be refused entry to the Waste Facilities if carrying waste for disposal.

⁴ See <https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/how-do-i-get-rid-of-business-waste/>

18. The correct permit must be presented on arrival at the Waste Facility for scanning by a site operative. The permit can be presented in digital format (i.e., on a mobile telephone) or in a clean and uncrumpled paper format. If a permit cannot be presented entry will be refused.
19. The GMCA reserves the right to cancel permits and accounts (including those unused for 12 months) or amend the operation of the Permit Scheme at any time.

By accepting these Terms and Conditions you are agreeing to abide with each clause. By accepting the Household Waste Declaration disclaimer, you are confirming that the waste is your household waste and is not from a business or being carried for reward.

If you have any further enquiries regarding the HWRC household waste permit scheme, please contact gmcavanpermit.uk@suez.com