



# Navigating design for bin storage



## Navigating Design for Bin Storage

Determining the right space and specification for bin storage is one of the most common challenges for architects and developers. Provision requirements are often unclear in early-stage design, leading to costly revisions or unsuitable waste management solutions later in the project.

This guide provides a clear, structured process for planning bin storage that is both practical and compliant, following widely accepted guidance and best practice principles. We break it into four simple sections – **Capacity, Location, Preventing Long-Term Issues and Security** – making it easier to design waste storage that works long-term for residents, site managers and collection crews.

At urbanspec, we specialise in delivering external bin store buildings, screens and enclosures that meet the needs outlined in this guide. From small residential schemes to complex mixed-use developments, our modular design system, extensive product range and custom-build capability help you implement bin storage solutions that are functional, compliant and aesthetically pleasing.



# 1. Capacity

## Residential

Domestic

Number of dwellings  
× {(70L × bedrooms) + 30L}

## Office & Commercial

Office

(50L) × number of employees

## Industrial

Industrial unit

5L × m<sup>2</sup> floor area

## Hospitality & Food Service

1 star hotel/B&B

150L × number of bedrooms

2/3 star hotel

250L × number of bedrooms

4/5 star hotel

350L × number of bedrooms

Fast food outlet

5L × number of sales

Restaurant

75L × number of covers

## Leisure & Public Facilities

Entertainment complex / leisure centre

100L × m<sup>2</sup> floor area

## Retail

Department store / shopping centre

10L × m<sup>2</sup> sales area

Supermarket (large)

150L × m<sup>2</sup> sales area

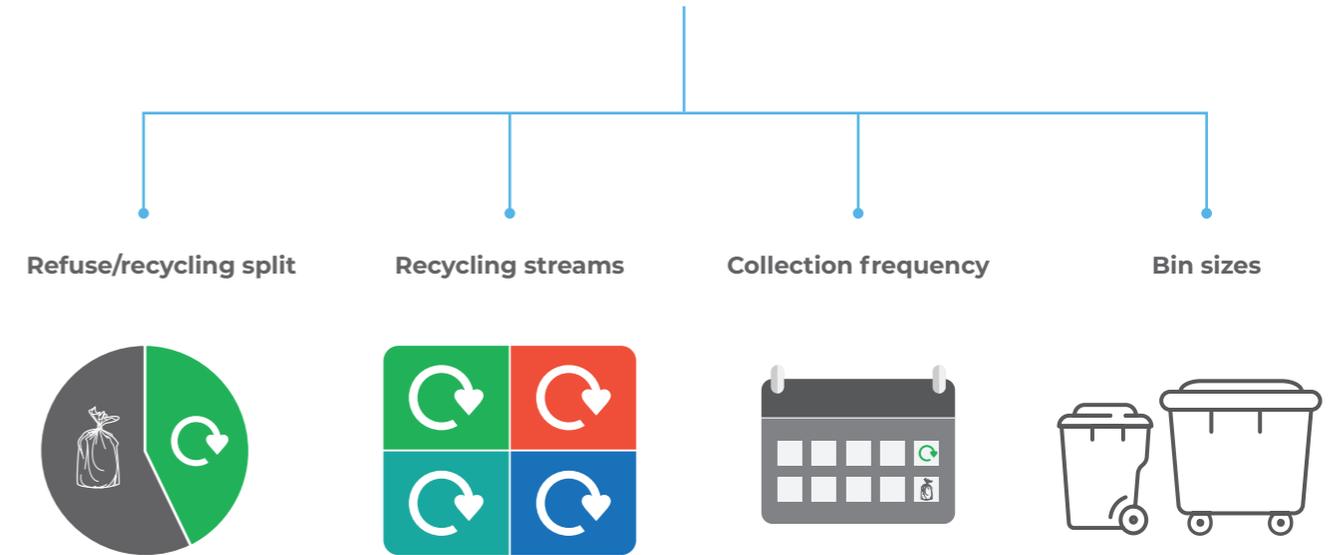
Supermarket (small)

100L × m<sup>2</sup> sales area

Table data: BS 5906:2005

### Local planning guidance:

These figures provide indicative weekly waste arisings for different building types. Actual storage provision should be refined in line with local planning guidance. Key factors include the required split between refuse and recycling, the number of separate recycling streams to be accommodated, the collection frequency agreed with the local authority, and the bin sizes or container types specified for collection vehicles. These considerations will influence both the total volume and the layout of storage areas, ensuring compliance and ease of use for residents and operatives.



## 2. Location

### Reducing Fire Risk

Position bin stores at least 6 metres from building entrances, windows or ventilation openings to reduce fire risk

### Resident Access

Locate bin stores within 30 metres of individual dwellings to ensure convenient resident access

### Collection Access

Ensure routes from bin store to collection point do not exceed 10 metres (4-wheeled bins) or 15 metres (2-wheeled bins), in line with waste contractor requirements

### Fire-Resistant Construction

Where 6m separation is not possible, specify stores with a minimum 30-minute fire resistance



## 3. Prevention

### Preventing long-term issues

Designing out long-term waste issues starts at street level. urbanspec bin housings are engineered to reduce contamination and fly-tipping through carefully considered details – from clear signage and defined apertures to touch-free access and durable construction.

### No Lid Lifting

Containers remain open within the housing, removing the need to lift bin lids and improving ease of use for all users

### Fly-Tipping Prevention

Enclosed units and controlled access reduce opportunities for dumping loose bags and bulky waste

### Clear Signage

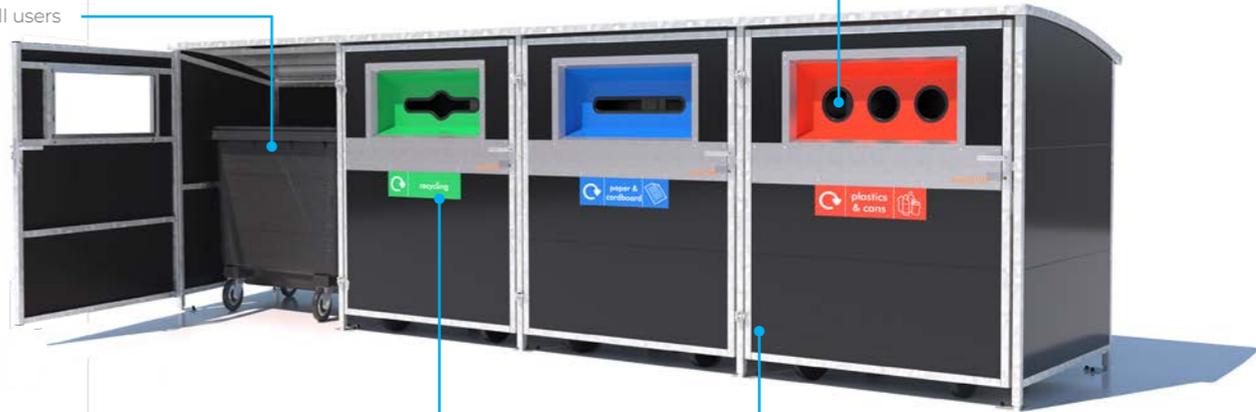
Consistent, stream-specific signage supports correct use and reduces contamination across multiple waste types

### Simpler Recycling Ready

Compatible with Simpler Recycling requirements through modular aperture and signage configurations

### Defined Apertures

Purpose-designed openings limit misuse and improve separation of recycling and general waste at the point of deposit



## 4. Security

### Avoid Concealed Areas

Do not site stores behind walls, fencing or landscaping that blocks visibility or access



### Discourage Out-of-Sight Thinking

Keep bin stores integrated within the environment to discourage anti-social behaviour & fly-tipping activity



### Visible From Dwellings

Ensure bin stores are overlooked by homes or regularly used spaces to enable passive monitoring

### Near Regular Pathways

Position stores along well-used routes to ensure convenience of use for residents

## Secured by Design

Secured by Design (SBD) operates an accreditation scheme on behalf of the UK Police Forces for products or services that have met recognised security standards. Such products or services must be capable of deterring or preventing crime and are known as being of a 'Police Preferred Specification'.

To achieve this, products have to be independently tested, and certified by an approved third party testing house such as sold secure.

urbanspec products are tested and certified by the approved body Sold Secure. To keep the Police Preferred Specification our products are required to be regularly re-tested and we have an annual inspection by a UKAS body of our manufacturing facility to ensure quality and performance is maintained.

Sold Secure is administered by the Master Locksmiths Association. Approval is classified into 3 main categories; Bronze, Silver & Gold. The categories reflect the amount of time allocated per test and the type of tools used from a toolkit based on insurance and police information.

The higher the grading the higher the security provided and urbanspec products are tested against the criteria for SS104 Bicycles and SS314 Security Cabinets.



urbanspec H-Series and M-Series external stores can be specified to Sold Secure SS314 Cabinet Silver standard, offering robust protection against determined attacks using heavy manual and powered tools. Units are tested to resist entry for five minutes using jigsaws, cordless drills and impact drivers.

Enhanced Security Features Include:

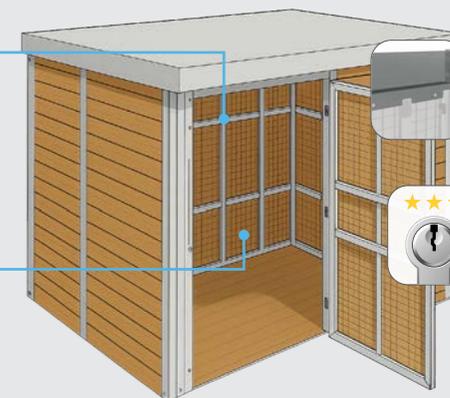
- Welded-in metal hinge shields to access door
- Welded metal flange and anti-door removal plates fitted to access door frame
- Welded-in manganese steel lock cover, flange and lock keep
- Internal metal security bars fitted to door and panel sections
- Steel security mesh liner panels fitted internally to door and panel sections
- 3-star lock cylinder to the access door locking system



Internal security bars



Internal security mesh



anti-door removal plates



3 star lock cylinder

## Bin Stores, Screens & Enclosures

urbanspec offers one of the largest external waste and recycling storage product ranges in the UK.

Our integrated design and engineering methodology combines the efficiency of volume manufacture with custom build capability. This can include green roof applications, with external bin stores being ideally suited to the provision of valuable components in achieving Biodiversity Net Gain targets for new developments.

From B-Series and P-Series Bin Stores, R-Series Bin Lockers, H-Series Bin Store Buildings, E-Series Bin Screens Systems to S-Series Enclosed Bin Screens, urbanspec products share a unique design format that enables specifiers to select panel type and finishes with multiple options for customisation. This makes site wide design coordination and single source procurement a realistic concept for external works projects.

Urbanspec products share a unique design format, helping to increase recycling success for residential and commercial applications alike while reducing associated fire risk, litter, fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour. The urbanspec integrated design and engineering approach extends to access control options for all types of bin store, where key operated, mechanical keypad, smartphone access and fob operated locking systems can be accommodated within our proven format.



H-Series Bin Store Buildings



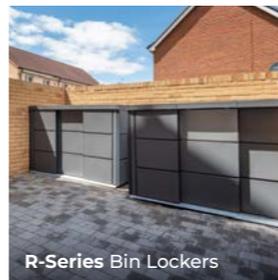
H-Series Bin Store Building



P-Series Bin Stores



B-Series Bin Stores



R-Series Bin Lockers



S-Series Enclosed Bin Screens



E-Series Bin Screen Systems

### Victoria Road, Portslade

Brighton & Hove City Council delivered 42 new energy-efficient homes in Portslade for people on the local housing register, working with main contractor Morgan Sindall Construction. Designed with sustainability in mind, the scheme featured ground source heat pumps, solar panels, living walls and landscaped communal areas.

urbanspec supplied three P-Series external bin stores with green roofs to support biodiversity and reduce visual impact. Installed close to residential buildings, the units included non-combustible fireboard lining to meet fire safety guidance where a 6 metre separation was not possible. Each store featured user-friendly apertures and clear signage to support waste separation.



Scan for full project details



[bit.ly/spec-vic-rd](https://bit.ly/spec-vic-rd)

### Prince Avenue, Essex

Estuary Housing Association worked with main contractor Dove Jeffery to deliver 20 new affordable homes in Southend-on-Sea, comprising 3-bed houses and 2-bed apartments.

urbanspec supplied an H-Series External Storage Building to house four 1110L communal bins at the front of the apartment block. Resident-only access was included to prevent unauthorised use and reduce the risk of side waste and fire hazards.

The bin store was finished with ForestPanel cladding and a sedum green roof to match the site aesthetic, while supporting biodiversity and reducing carbon impact. Designed as part of a coordinated package of external storage, the installation helped ensure a clean, secure and visually consistent solution for waste management on site.



Scan for full project details



[bit.ly/spec-prince-av](https://bit.ly/spec-prince-av)



## Future-proofing bin storage through design – a comprehensive guide

Many UK housing estates are struggling with severe waste issues, from fly tipping and anti-social behaviour to arson attacks in bin storage areas. Whether its refurbishment, estate improvement works or a new build development, it's imperative that key design principles are followed to design out long-term issues, of this nature. This comprehensive CPD will give you an in-depth guide to the key principles to be followed, including the relevant legislation to comply with supported by varied case study examples.

### Key Learning Points:

- Overview of how waste & recycling works in the UK
- Learn the key issues facing all stakeholders with poor waste management
- Gain detailed insight into 3 key areas to ensure success with bin storage: Capacity, Convenience & Compliance
- Understand a failsafe guide to thoroughly assess a site for all aspects of waste.
- Study different bin storage designs to meet different site requirements



#### Run Time

60 minutes with time allowed for questions and project advice



#### Location

At your office

To book: [enquiries@urbanspec.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@urbanspec.co.uk)  
or call: **0800 102 6368**



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## Specifiers

urbanspec are partners with NBS, which means you can find **our products on NBS Source.**

NBS Source is a free-to-use construction product platform that allows you to quickly and easily find, select and specify our products. Boasting enhanced product data in NBS standardised specification format and a range of content, from case studies to third party certificates; NBS Source gives you the detailed information you need to make informed product decisions.

#### Product Case Studies

See urbanspec product solutions in action

#### Product Datasheets

download with detailed product information

BIM objects updated for 2025



2025 BOS-Certified BIM files





[bit.ly/nbs-source](https://bit.ly/nbs-source)

urbanspec are partners with NBS, meaning you can find our products on NBS Source, complete with our **BOS-Certified BIM files** for accurate specification



**NBS Source**  
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