

“What do I do about my old fridge or freezer now?”

Foster Refrigerator explains what to do when your old fridge or freezer needs replacing

Foster Refrigerator, as with every refrigeration manufacturer, is duty bound to collect your end-of-life refrigerator or freezer under the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) regulations when requested.

However, unlike most other equipment in your kitchen such as dishwashers, cookers etc, a refrigerator or freezer is also classified as hazardous waste. This is because all such refrigeration equipment contains refrigerant gases and it is therefore important that such gases do not escape into the atmosphere when being collected and recycled.

Many business premises, when disposing of hazardous waste items for the first time, will not be aware of the legislative requirements placed on those in the collection and disposal chain.

Foster Refrigerator is approved to the international environmental standard ISO 14001 and takes great care to ensure that those collecting on our behalf are correctly licensed by the Environment Agency (EA) to carry hazardous waste and that the documentation required (a Hazardous Waste Consignment Note) is correctly filled in and processed. Failure to do this could put us, our carriers and our customers at risk of prosecution by the EA.

As a customer of Foster, all you have to do is to inform the collection company (the driver) if you have a premises registration code for hazardous waste. This would only be applicable to your business if the collection site produces over 500kgs of hazardous waste in any 12 month period (as a guideline, 500kgs is roughly equivalent to five single door 600 litre refrigerators).

If this is not the case you should tell the collection company driver that your site is 'exempt' from registration and this will be noted on the consignment note. Please remember that it is illegal for hazardous waste to be collected using a 'waste collection Note', it has to be a 'consignment note'.

Within 3 months of collection you will receive a returns note from the collection company informing you of where, when and how your refrigerator or freezer was disposed of. The collection company will also notify the EA on a quarterly basis for every unit collected.

If you request Foster to collect and dispose of your end-of-life cabinet we will ensure that your unit is disposed of in line with current environmental legislation at a licensed facility which will maximise the materials for recycling. **This may not be the case for everyone who offers this service and you should check that they are compliant, or you too could be at risk.**