

# Paths used for the removal of refuse

(March 2017) (Second issue - supersedes January 2016)



## Question

What minimum width of hard surfacing should be provided to paths used for the removal of refuse?

## Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 10.2.6 Table 1 gives minimum widths for paths serving different purposes. Paths used for the removal of refuse to the collection point should have a minimum width of 900mm.
- The path width should be sufficient to enable a bin to be manoeuvred easily without being hindered by obstructions.
- The path should be hard surface to enable a refuse wheelie bin to be used.
- National Building Regulations set out requirements for the storage area for refuse bins/containers.

## Answer

The path hard surface should be firm, even, smooth enough to be wheeled over and not covered with loose laid materials such as gravel and shingle.

The width of hard surfacing should be not less than 750mm along the straight sections of path. The hard surfacing at changes of direction should be sufficient to enable the wheels of a wheelie bin to remain on a hard surface when turning the corner.

The overall clear width of the path between walls, fences etc. should be not less than 900mm.

In unavoidable circumstances, where the width is reduced by local obstructions such as gateposts, meter boxes, rainwater downpipes, soil and vent pies, etc, a minimum unobstructed width of 750mm may be accepted provided the obstruction:

- is for a short distance (not more than 1m) and
- only occurs in a straight section of the access route to avoid restricting manoeuvres at changes in the direction of travel.

A hard standing for storage of the refuse bins/containers should also be provided adjoining the path. National Building Regulations for England, Wales and Northern Ireland give guidance on the size of hard surfacing required for storage of, and access to, the bins/containers.