

## Refuse Collector

### What is it?

A refuse collector, also known as a waste collector or bin man, is responsible for collecting and transporting household, commercial, and industrial waste to disposal and recycling facilities. Refuse collectors play a crucial role in maintaining public health and cleanliness by ensuring that waste is properly managed and disposed of.

### Qualifications/Experience Required:

A good level of physical fitness is essential due to the physically demanding nature of the job. Some employers may require basic literacy and numeracy skills, and a valid driving license may be necessary for roles that involve driving a refuse collection vehicle. Experience in manual labour or a related field can be beneficial.

### What the Work Involves:

Working as part of a team to collect waste from residential, commercial, and industrial areas according to a set schedule. Operating and maintaining refuse collection vehicles and equipment safely and efficiently. Handling waste bins, bags, and recycling containers, lifting them onto collection vehicles. Ensuring waste is sorted correctly and transported to the appropriate disposal or recycling facilities.

### Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for refuse collectors remains consistent, as waste management is an essential public service. With experience, refuse collectors may have opportunities to advance to supervisory or managerial positions within waste management.

**Average annual Salary - £18,000 - £25,000**

**Typical weekly hours – 38 – 40 per week**

*You may have to work weekends and bank holidays.*

### Type of person who may be suited to this job:

This job may be suited to individuals who are physically fit, reliable, and able to work well as part of a team. Refuse collectors need to have a strong work ethic, attention to detail, and the ability to follow safety procedures. Good communication skills are also important for interacting with the public and colleagues.

### Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level refuse workers can expect to earn around £18,000 to £21,000 per year.

Senior workers or those in managerial positions may earn upwards of £25,000 per year.

### Related Opportunities:

- Recycling operative
- Street cleaner
- Waste management supervisor
- Hazardous waste technician

### Further Information:

National Careers Service:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/refuse-collector>

Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum:

<https://wishforum.org.uk/>