

Paths used for the removal of refuse

(January 2025) (Third issue – supersedes March 2017)

The Technical Guidance Notes are produced by NHBC as guidance solely for our builder customers as to how to interpret the technical requirements in relation to the warranty cover provided by NHBC under its Buildmark, Buildmark Choice, Buildmark Link, Buildmark Solo, Buildmark Connect or any similar product from time to time. It has not been created or intended for distribution or use outside of that purpose. The information contained in this Technical Guidance Note does not constitute advice and is not to be relied upon by any third party. Nothing in this Technical Guidance Note is intended to, nor should it be taken to, create any legal or contractual relationship. Any third party who chooses to rely upon the information contained in the Technical Guidance Notes shall do so entirely at their own risk and NHBC accepts no duty of care or liability, however caused, in connection with its use or reliance by any third party.

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 2 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.



NHBC, NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK5 8FP
Tel: 0344 633 1000 Web: nhbc.co.uk

National House-Building Council (NHBC) is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority for carrying on insurance business and insurance distribution activities.

NHBC is registered in England and Wales under company number 00320784. NHBC's registered address is NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK5 8FP. Note that only certain parts of our products and services are within the scope of UK financial services regulations. For more information on our products and services, please see our website nhbc.co.uk or your NHBC product documentation.