



# Ashburton District Council Environmental Services Newcomers Information

Hello and Welcome to the Ashburton District!

Moving to a new town can be challenging, sometimes it can be difficult to find the information you need about the local laws and community services. Environmental Services at the Ashburton District Council is responsible for a wide range of service delivery within the district. This information sheet only covers a few of the most common issues that you may encounter. We hope that this information sheet will answer a few of your questions and assist you in making the transition into Ashburton a little easier!

## Rubbish

How do I get rid of my rubbish?	In the Ashburton District rubbish is collected once a week from outside your home. General household waste must be deposited in BLACK rubbish bags with the council logo on the front which can be purchased from the Council office or from local supermarkets - it costs \$8.50 for 5 bags.
What about recycling?	Recycling is collected on the same day as your rubbish. In Ashburton, Methven, Mt Somers, Hinds and Mayfield, recycling goes in the GREEN recycling bin which can be purchased from the Council for \$12. In Rakaia a BLUE (dry) and GREEN (wet) bag system is used for separating recycling. Bags can be purchased from the Council or from Rakaia supermarkets – it costs \$2.75 for 5 bags.
When do I put it out?	Once a week on the kerb outside your house. Areas for collection are published in the community directory and available on our website or just call us, or ask your neighbours!
What if I leave my rubbish somewhere else?	Dumping rubbish <i>anywhere</i> other than in designated areas or outside your house on rubbish pick up days is illegal and you can receive infringements of up to <b>\$400</b> . Plus the cost of cleaning up the rubbish.
Where else can I take my rubbish?	The Ashburton Council has a Resource Recovery Park in Ashburton and Rakaia and drop off centres in Methven where you can take your household rubbish, green waste and recycling. <b>It's free to take your council rubbish bags to the Resource Recovery Park.</b> Check the community directory or our website for more details.
<b>Useful Contacts:</b>	<b>Website/Phone number:</b>
Council website (solid waste)	<a href="http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/solidwaste/">http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/solidwaste/</a>
Resource Recovery Park (Ashburton)	03 308 0405
Ashburton Community Directory (Yellow pages)	0800 656 535

## Burning in your backyard

Did you know that there is a council bylaw which restricts where and when a fire can be lit?	The <i>Ashburton District Council Bylaw 2008</i> states that; No person shall light any fire in the open air within an urban area at <b>ANY TIME</b> with the exception of burning of fuels in ethnic cooking fires, barbecues or braziers.
And provisions under the <i>Health Act 1956</i> which prohibit smoke from becoming a health nuisance??	Burning needs to be properly planned and managed to minimise health risks and avoid causing a nuisance to others in the community.
Remember never to burn if there is a fire restriction in your area, or a total fire ban. <b>Check with the Council before making plans to have a fire!</b>	
<b>Useful Contacts:</b>	<b>Website/phone number:</b>
Council website (fire control)	<a href="http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/firecontrol/">http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/firecontrol/</a>
Fire Service (Ashburton)	03 308 4199
Emergency Number	111

## Dogs

If you wish to own a dog in the Ashburton District you **MUST** comply with the *Dog Control Act 1996*. Serious penalties including prosecutions in court can occur if your dog is unregistered, is found wandering, defecates in public or attacks or behaves aggressively. For more information on dog ownership you can visit the animal control section of our website or pick up a brochure at the Council office.

### Your obligations as a dog owner include:

- ✓ Register your dog with the Council every year
- ✓ Keep your dog under control at all times
- ✓ Provide your dog with care and attention, shelter, food, water and exercise
- ✓ Prevent your dog from becoming a nuisance to others through persistent barking, howling or any other means

### Useful Contacts:

Council website (animal control)  
Council Animal Control Officer

### Website/Phone number:

<http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/animalcontrol/>  
03 307 7700

## Noise

Everyone is responsible for the noise they make. The *Resource Management Act 1991* indicates it is your duty not to make noise that disturbs or upsets other people.

### Planning a party?!

- ✓ Inform neighbours of the day and time
- ✓ Keep stereos and guests inside after 10pm and close doors and windows
- ✓ listening to the radio outside? Keep the volume down and the radio close by
- ✓ Band practice? Inform neighbours, keep sessions short and during the daytime or at agreed times

### Unreasonable Noise!

If unreasonable noise is not reduced within the time ordered the Council may take **legal action**.

Anyone making unreasonable or excessive noise can be fined!  
Equipment can be seized from your property. A fee covering costs of removal and storage will be payable (currently \$100).  
Seized equipment may be reclaimed from Council when the Officer is satisfied it will not be used in resumption of the noise.

### Useful Contacts:

Barking dogs  
Loud or disorderly human behaviour  
Noisy vehicles  
Workplace noise

### Phone Number:

Animal Control Officer 03 307 7700  
NZ Police 03 307 8400  
NZ Police Traffic Safety 03 307 8400  
Department of Labour 0800 20 90 20

## Complaints or problems

If you have a complaint about an environmental health issue, or you notice something that you think should be reported to Council you can contact us. We are here to help!

### Fix-a-Grams

This is a really handy way of letting the Council know of common problems such as pot-holes, playground safety or vandalism. You can pick up a fix a gram at the council office, phone us OR go to the council website and print a fix-a-gram off and post it in.

What do I do??	Phone it In	03 307 7700
	Council Website	<a href="http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/service+requests.htm">http://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/service+requests.htm</a>
	Post it In	Fix-a-Gram, PO Box 94, Ashburton 7740

