

Certain public areas such as [parks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parks) have [litter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Litter) bins which are placed alongside paths frequently walked by visitors. This encourages people to avoid [littering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Littering), which creates an unhealthy and aesthetically unpleasant [social environment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_environment). Public trash bins may be accompanied by [recycling bins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recycling_bin) or "bottle bins" to be used for recycling glass and plastic. Some public bins, especially in "green" restaurants, accept organic waste to be [composted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composted). 

Bins in outdoor locations or other busy [public](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public) areas are usually mounted to the ground or wall. This discourages [theft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theft), and also reduces [vandalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandalism) by making it harder for someone to physically move or maneuver the bins; to spill their contents on the ground for example, or to use the bin as an effective weapon to hit people over the back with.

In the past [terrorists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorist) have left [improvised explosive devices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Improvised_explosive_devices) in bins. The bomb is much less likely to be spotted than an unattended bag and the metal bins provide extra [shrapnel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fragmentation_%28weaponry%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Fragmentation%20%28weaponry%29)that injures people nearby when it detonates. For this reason there are no bins in most [railway stations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Train_station), most [airports](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airport), and many [shopping centres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shopping_malls) in the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), or if they are provided they are just a bin bag hanging from a metal loop.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] The [Bay Area Rapid Transit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bay_Area_Rapid_Transit) system in northern California also removed trash cans to prevent bombs from being hidden in them.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_container#cite_note-1)

A Danish design company called Peoples ApS, have in cooperation with Swedish based Dynasafe AB, developed a "bombproof" bin suitable for public places. The bins were successfully tested at Saab Bofors test center, an independent third party, using the maximum amount of explosives[[*which?*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AAvoid_weasel_words)] specified for the particular design.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] Shortly after the [2004 Madrid train bombings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Madrid_train_bombings), the [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Transportation_Authority) used about $500,000 in grant money from the federal United States government to purchase $2,000 bomb-proof trash cans manufactured by the Mistral Group, meant to direct the explosion upward. MBTA testing found the cans failed to contain an explosion using only 20% of the amount of explosive used in Madrid, depending on placement.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_container#cite_note-2) Apartment buildings often have two dust flumes in which residents can dispose of their trash in stainless steel trash cans.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_container#cite_note-3) These chutes usually lead to some large receptacle or trash complex in the basement.