

Guidelines on Placing Rubbish Bins in Common Areas and Staircases of Domestic or Composite Buildings

Note: *This set of guidelines on placing rubbish bins in common areas and staircases of multi-storey domestic or composite buildings has been drawn up as a co-ordinated approach for resolving fire safety and hygiene issues between Fire Services Department, Buildings Department, Housing Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Home Affairs Department. They should be applicable to common areas of private multi-storey domestic or composite buildings but are not applicable to government buildings and public housing estates.*

1. Single staircase buildings

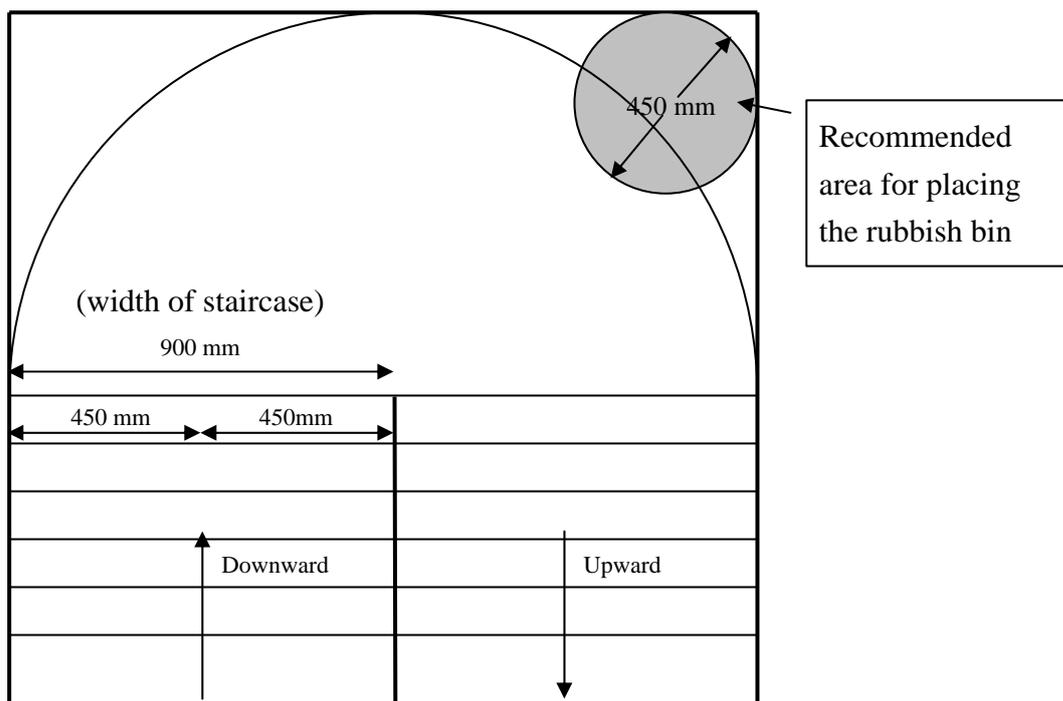
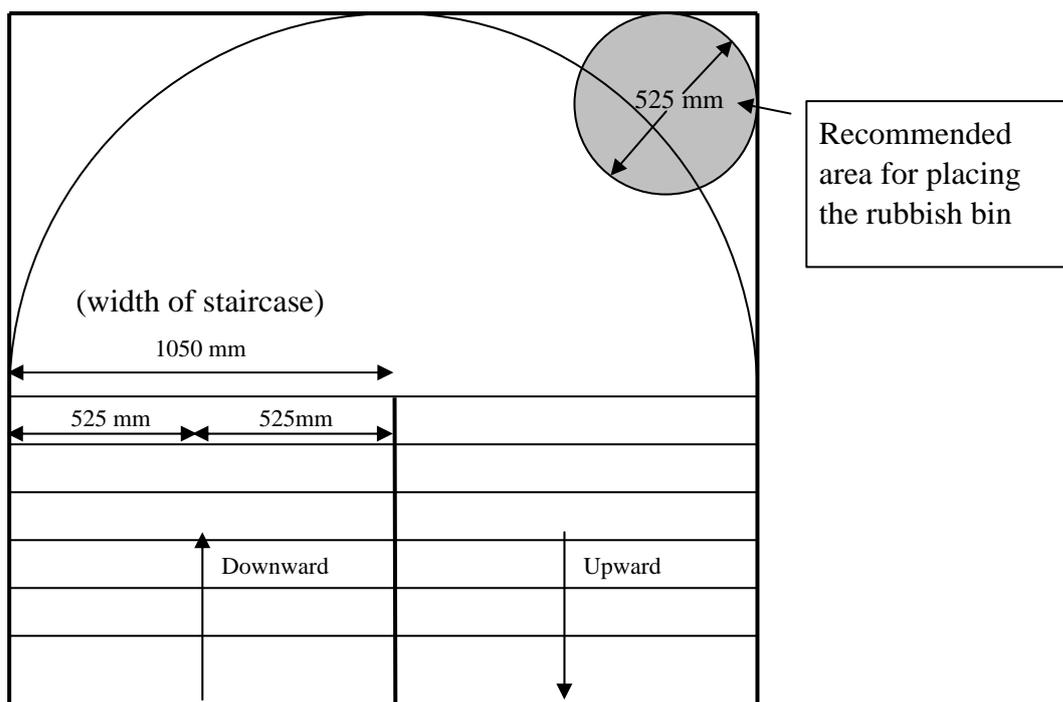
- (i) Rubbish bins of individual households containing the to-be-collected household garbage are allowed to be placed outside the unit only during the specified garbage collection time and should be retrieved immediately afterwards;
- (ii) Rubbish bins should be small in size, and should not cause serious obstruction to the passageway or render emergency escapes impossible or difficult; and
- (iii) Rubbish bins should be of metal type or made of non-combustible/fire resisting material, and be properly covered by lids at all times.

2. Buildings with two or more staircases *without* hopper rooms/refuse chutes

- (i) Rubbish bins for shared use of households should be placed inside the recommended areas i.e. at the corner portion of the staircase landing (illustrated by the diagrams at Appendix) so as not to cause obstruction to means of escape;
- (ii) The size of the rubbish bins should be restricted to a diameter less than 50% of the effective staircase width so as to avoid obstruction of the means of escape;
- (iii) The rubbish bins should preferably be of metal type or made of non-combustible/fire resisting material, and be properly covered by lids at all times; and
- (iv) The to-be-collected household garbage should be put inside plastic bags and be placed inside rubbish bins.

3. Buildings with two or more staircases *with* hopper rooms/refuse chutes

Hopper rooms/refuse chutes, where provided in buildings, should be utilized as far as possible.



Note : The general layout of the staircase landing (with effective staircase width commonly at 900mm and 1050mm for old and new private buildings respectively) is more unique than that of common corridor for demarcating the recommended area for placing the rubbish bin. This recommended area is easy to outline by simply taking 50% of the effective staircase width as the diameter to draw up a circle. In corollary, the rubbish bin only overlaps a minor portion of the means of escape and does not block up or make passage impossible or difficult, or prevent or retard progress.