Sylvester Turner, Mayor

the TRASH FACTS

Harry J. Hayes Director

The Citizen's Guide to City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department Services

Residential Services:

At Your Curbside

Garbage Collection

Household garbage must be put inside the city-provided container which should be placed at the curb between 6 p.m. the day before and 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. The container must be accessible to the automated collection truck and not blocked by obstacles, including parked cars. Drivers will not move improperly placed containers. Containers must be removed from the curbline and/or public view by 10:00 p.m. on the day of collection and stored in a secure location. The garbage container is for disposing of regular household garbage only. Certain items should not be disposed of in your garbage container either because they are too heavy for SWMD equipment or because they may harm employees, property, neighbors, pets, and the environment. Therefore, do not put 1) household chemicals, 2) construction, demolition, and remodeling debris, 3) dead animals, 4) computer equipment, 5) recyclables or 6) yard trimmings in the container.

Yard Trimmings

Yard Trimmings, grass clippings, small branches and leaves must not be placed in the automated garbage cans. They must be in city-approved compostable bags not weighing more than 50 pounds, and placed at the curb 3 feet away from the automated container for separate yard trimmings collection. Small branches may be put in bundles as long as each bundle is less than 4 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter and weighing less than 50 pounds. Yard Trimmings mixed with paper, plastic, or any other type of waste will not be collected. Work performed by a contractor must be removed by the contractor.

Adopt - A- Container Program

Non-profit organizations may request large bulk containers for weekend neighborhood cleanup campaigns. Requests must be sent to the SWMD in writing at least 14 days prior to the anticipated cleanup date. Bulk containers are provided on a "first come, first serve" basis and are delivered on Friday and collected on Monday. Only non-profit organizations and civic organizations coordinating a neighborhood cleanup campaign are eligible to sponsor bulk containers. For more information, call 3-1-1.

Dead Animals

Dead animals can be picked up by calling 311, the City's Customer Service Hotline. A fee is required for large dead animal pickup. For large animal pickup during the weekend, please call 311 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Do not place dead animals with household garbage or tree waste / junk waste collection.

For dead animals on the freeway and feeder, call TXDOT at 713-802-5000.

Fines

Violation of any provision of the solid waste ordinance is punishable upon first conviction by a fine of no less than $50 nor more than $2,000. Each subsequent conviction is punishable by a fine of no less than $250 nor more than $2,000. Each day that any violation continues may be punishable as a separate offense. To report a violation or to file a complaint, call 311. SWMD Supervisors can write citations.

...for more information, visit our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1

~Printed on Recycled Paper~

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Tree Waste / Junk Waste Recycling Program

The City will collect tree waste exclusively on odd months on the resident's current tree waste /junk waste collection day. "Tree waste" is defined as "clean wood waste", which consists of tree limbs, branches or stumps. Lumber, furniture and treated wood will not be accepted. On even months residents may set out their junk waste at the curb for city collection. "Junk waste" is used to describe items such as furniture, appliances and other bulky materials. These items should be placed adjacent to the front curb in a location easily accessible to the collection vehicle between the hours of 6:00 p.m. the Friday before, and 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. No more than eight cubic yards per residence will be collected on the scheduled tree waste/junk waste collection day. *Of this amount, only a maximum of four cubic yards of building material (not to include roofing shingles, brick, plaster or concrete) generated by the resident in connection with the maintenance of the residential property may be collected by department personnel.* A maximum of four (4) tires per month, per household may be placed curbside for collection. Sheet rock must be bagged. Appliances containing refrigerant must have a tag attached to them certifying that a qualified technician has removed the refrigerant. Materials should not be stacked under low overhead cabling, signs, or mailboxes; next to fences or posts; or on top of water meters, gas meters, fire hydrants, or other exposed utility components. Also, materials should not be placed in the street, on the sidewalk, or other right-of-way, or in any manner that would interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Tree waste and junk waste collection is limited to residential units and vacant residential lots only if the waste generated is in connection with the maintenance of the property. The SWMD is not allowed to collect any material that was generated by contractors who were retained by a resident to perform work on his or her residential property. It is the responsibility of the contractor to remove, or cause to be removed, all debris that may arise from the course of his or her activities. These contractor related activities include, but are not limited to, trimming and removal of trees, remodeling, new construction and roofing. If authorized items placed for collection are mixed with unauthorized items, department personnel shall not be obligated to sort the materials and may refuse the entire load. Solid waste collection services are not available to multi-residential structures of more than eight units.

Tree Waste Recycling reduces loads headed to the landfill

Tree Waste/Junk Waste Collection Schedule

January	Tree Waste
Feburary	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste
April	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste
June	Junk Waste
July	Tree Waste
August	Junk Waste
September	Tree Waste
October	Junk Waste
November	Tree Waste
December	Junk Waste

Neighborhood Depositories/Recycling Centers

Residents may dispose of tree waste / junk waste at one of the City's neighborhood depository facilities. Each user must provide proof of residency, including a Texas Driver's License or ID, a current utility bill or city property tax receipt. The depositories accept the same materials as the tree waste / junk waste collection (furniture, stoves, refrigerators, etc.) Depositories will accept up to 10 tires per month, per household. Residents must unload their tires and place them in a specified container. Materials brought in a commercial vehicle will not be accepted. SWMD personnel will not unload your tires or tree waste / junk waste. Residents may use depositories four times per month. Locations are now open Wed. - Sun., except holidays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.* Citizens are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes before closing to allow adequate time to unload. All depositories also accept recyclables. Materials accepted include aluminum and tin cans, tree waste, plastic bottles and jugs (#I-#5 and #7), newspapers and magazines, glass bottles and jars, and used motor oil.

* Daylight Savings - Hours change from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Neighborhood Depository & Recycling Center Locations

North	9003 N Main	3-1-1
Northwest	14400 Sommermeyer	3-1-1
Northeast	5565 Kirkpatrick	3-1-1
South	5100 Sunbeam	3-1-1
Southwest	10785 SW Freeway	3-1-1
Southeast	2240 Central Street	3-1-1

City Recycling Centers *(Junk Waste not accepted)*

Westpark Recycling Cntr.
5900 Westpark, 77057

Kingwood Recycling Cntr.
3210 West Lake Houston Pkwy

Ellington Airport/Clear Lake
246 Loop Rd., 77034

...for more information, visit our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

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Going Green
with SWMD

Automated Recycling - utilizes a 96-gallon green cart rolled to the curb for collection.

Recycling must be put inside the city-provided container which should be placed at the curb between 6 p.m. the day before and 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. The container must be accessible to the collection truck and not blocked by obstacles, including parked cars. Drivers will not move improperly placed containers. Containers must be removed from the curbline and/or public view by 10:00 p.m. on the day of collection and stored in a secure location.

What items can you recycle?

Newspaper
Magazines
Catalogs
Phone Books
Used Motor Oil

Plastic Containers #1 - 5 and 7 (rinsed & drained)
Aluminum and Tin Cans (rinsed & drained)
Cardboard (flattened)

Effective immediately, glass is no longer accepted in the green curbside recycling bin. You may still recycle glass at all City of Houston drop-off locations. For locations, please visit our website www.houstonsolidwaste.org/recycling.

Environmental Service Centers

The Environmental Service Centers provide drive through drop-off locations for Houston residents to bring their household hazardous waste such as anti-freeze, batteries, fuel, oil, paint, paint thinner, pesticides, herbicides and household cleaners. Residential electronic scrap items will also be accepted (monitors, televisions, printers, keyboards, mice, scanners, fax machines, telephone handsets, VCRs, CPUs, cellular phones and other small consumer electronics). These items should not be placed on the curb with or in your container for collection with garbage or tree waste / junk waste pickup. Clean, white styrofoam blocks (plastic #6) are now accepted at the ESC- South location. Packing "peanuts" are not accepted.

North - 5614 Neches, Building C (open 2nd Thursday of the month from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

South - 11500 South Post Oak (open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Free Reuse Chemical and Paint Take-Away

Every Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., household chemicals and paint that were brought to the ESC for disposal, but appear to be in good condition are made available for citizen reuse. Citizens may take away these items at no charge. A signed liability waiver will be required before removing materials from the site. There is a limit of six (6) chemical items and a cart load of paint per week. This service is only available at the ESC South location.

WESTPARK RECYCLING CENTER

The Westpark Consumer Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark, allows Houstonians the opportunity to recycle their used goods. The center accepts aluminum and tin cans, batteries, oil filters, used tires, computers and other residential electronic scraps, #1-7 plastic containers, glass bottles and jars, telephone books, office paper, cardboard, magazines, and used motor oil. Newspapers placed in a brown bag will also be accepted.

Clean, white styrofoam blocks (plastic #6) are accepted at the Westpark Recycling Center and ESC South. Packing "peanuts" are not accepted. Styrofoam is not accepted in the curbside recycling program.

The center is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

B.O.P.A.
(Batteries, Used **O**il, Latex **P**aint, & **A**ntifreeze**)**

The SWMD has a B.O.P.A. recycling operation at the Westpark Recycling Center. Residents may drop off batteries, used oil, latex paint, anti-freeze and tires from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except holidays. The facility is a drive through operation so you do not have to unload your own vehicle.

...for more information, visit our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

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ReUse Warehouse

Construction material accounts for 38% of the waste stream in the Houston area. The Reuse Warehouse, a component of the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department, benefits the community by providing space for excess building materials that would otherwise be dumped in local landfills. The facility accepts material from individuals, supply companies, and builders, and makes it freely available for reuse by any non-profit organization. The Reuse Warehouse is funded in part by a grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Location:
9003 N. Main St.
Houston, TX 77022

Contact Information:
3-1-1 or
reuse.warehouse@houstontx.gov

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tuesday - Friday:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Closed: Sunday - Monday

Extra Capacity Collection Fee

On June 19, 2002, Houston's City Council approved an ordinance amending Article IV of Chapter 39 of the Houston Code of Ordinances, approving and authorizing the creation of an Extra Capacity Collection Fee (ECC) for the SWMD. Under the umbrella of the ECC ordinance, the Add-A-Can and the Tags for Bags Program were created. Implementation of both programs began October I, 2002.

Add-A-Can

This program provides residents with the opportunity of having a second or third garbage can serviced for a fee. Residents will have their first 96-gallon can serviced free. The fee for servicing the second/ third can may be added to the citizen's monthly water bill upon request of the service. Citizens who already have an extra can and wish to continue to have it collected will need to request a sticker for it. Call 3-1-1 to enroll in Add-A-Can.

Tags For Bags

Extra bags of garbage are collected only if they have a special tag attached. The "Tags for Bags" program allows residents the convenience of purchasing "tags" instead of additional cans if they require extra service occasionally. These tags may be purchased at Fiesta, HEB, Sellers Bros. and participating Kroger stores. Residents may also download an order form at houstonsolidwaste.org and send the completed form and payment through the mail. Yard waste bags do not require tags.

REQUEST THE SOLID WASTE MASCOT
To request the Solid Waste Management Department mascot or a Speaker from the SWMD please call 3-1-1, the City's Customer Service Hotline.

City of Houston
Solid Waste Management Department
PO Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

www.houstonsolidwaste.org
Houston residents can dial 3-1-1 for non-emergency calls. The 3-1-1 Service Center provides Houstonians with one easy to remember telephone number for quick reliable access.

The Trash Facts is a newsletter published by the Solid Waste Management Department. Information may be reproduced for public dissemination by civic groups and neighborhood organizations.

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