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THE TRASH FACTS

THE CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

*City of Houston * Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) * 713-837-9100*

RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE & YARD TRIMMINGS RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Household garbage must be put inside the city provided container which should be placed at the curb between 6:00 p.m. the day before and 7:00 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 secured location. **Grass clippings, small branches, and leaves must not be placed in the automated garbage cans.** They must be put in sturdy one-way containers (bags), not weighing more than 50 pounds, and placed at the curb 3 feet away from the automated container for separate yard trimming collection. Small branches may be put in bundles as long as each bundle is less than 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter, and not weighing more than 50 pounds. Yard trimmings mixed with paper, plastic or any other type of waste will not be collected.

HEAVY TRASH COLLECTION

Once a month, residents can dispose of large items such as furniture, appliances, large tree branches and up to 4 tires through the heavy trash pickup service. Heavy trash 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.

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 heavy trash crews. Appliances containing refrigerant must have a tag attached to them certifying that a qualified technician has removed the refrigerant. Heavy trash material should not be stacked under low overhead electrical wires or other cabling, signs, or mailboxes; next to fences or posts; or on top of water meters, gas meters, fire hydrants, or other exposed utility components. Materials should not be placed in the street, on the sidewalk, or other right-of-way, or in any manner which would interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Heavy trash 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.

DEAD ANIMAL PICK-UP

Dead animals can be picked up by calling the SWMD at 713-699-7996. In the contract areas, dead animals can be picked up by calling 311. A charge of $25 is required for large dead animal pickup. For large animal pickup during the weekend, please call 713-675-3208 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For dead animals on the freeway and feeder, call 713-802-5000. Do not place dead animals with household or heavy trash collection.

ADOPT-A-CONTAINER PROGRAM

Non-profit organizations may request large bulk containers for weekend neighborhood cleanup campaigns. Requests must be sent to SWMD in writing at least 14 days prior to the anticipated cleanup date. Bulk containers are provided on a "first come, first served" basis and are delivered on Friday and collected on Monday. Only non-profit and civic organizations coordinating a neighborhood cleanup campaign are eligible to sponsor bulk containers. For more information, call 311.

THE TRASH FACTS
is a newsletter published by the Solid Waste Management Department's Public Information Office. Information in this newsletter may be reproduced for public dissemination by civic groups and neighborhood organizations.

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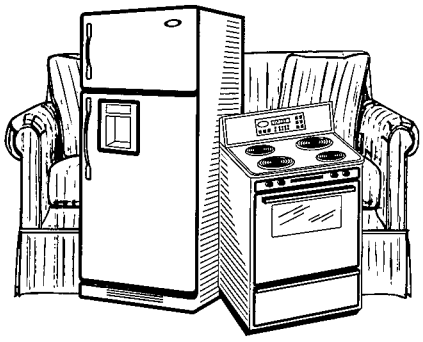


HEAVY TRASH AT NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOSITORIES

Residents may dispose of heavy trash 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 monthly heavy trash collection (furniture, tree limbs, stoves, refrigerators, etc.). However, depositories will accept up to ten automobile tires per trip per residential unit. Citizens must unload their tires and place them in a specified trailer. Materials brought in a commercial vehicle will not be accepted. SWMD personnel will not unload your tires or heavy trash. Residents may use depositories four times per month. Locations are open Wednesday through Sunday, 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.

Neighborhood Depository Locations:

NORTHEAST AREA
5565 Kirkpatrick: 713-675-3208

SOUTHEAST AREA
9200 Lawndale: 713-926-1247

SOUTH AREA
5100 Sunbeam: 713-738-1936

FINES

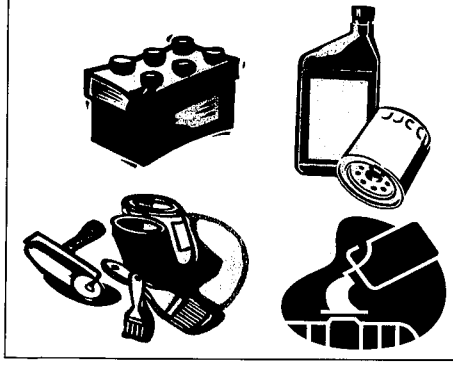
Violations of any provision of the solid waste ordinance is punishable upon first conviction by a fine of no less than $50 nor more than $2,000. Each subsequent conviction is punishable by a fine of no less than $250 nor more than $2,000. Each day that any violation continues may be punishable as a separate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

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

The Curbside Recycling Program is provided bi-weekly to many Houston neighborhoods. Materials collected include aluminum and tin cans, #1 and #2 plastic containers, corrugated cardboard, mail, envelopes, home and office paper, telephone books, newspapers, magazines and used motor oil. Neighborhoods that would like to be considered for future recycling expansion can be added to a waiting list. For more information, call 311.

B.O.P.A. (BATTERIES, OIL, PAINT & ANTIFREEZE)

B.O.P.A. stands for **B**atteries, used motor **O**il, latex **P**aint and **A**ntifreeze. The Solid Waste Management Department has started a B.O.P.A. recycling operation at the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark. Residents can drop off these items and tires from 9 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, call 311.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE CENTERS

The Environmental Service Centers provide drive through drop-off locations for Houston residents to bring their household hazardous waste such as antifreeze, 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 heavy trash pickup.

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.) For more information, call 713-551-7355.

RECYCLING AT NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOSITORIES

All depositories also accept recyclables. Materials accepted include aluminum and tin cans, wood waste, plastic bottles and jugs (#1 and #2), newspapers and magazines, glass bottles and jars, and used motor oil.

Citizens may use depositories four times per month. *See page 2 for locations and times.

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, oil filters, used tires, computers and other residential electronic scraps, #1 and #2 plastic containers, glass bottles and jars, telephone books, office paper, cardboard, magazines, and used motor oil. Newspapers placed in a brown paper bag will also be accepted. The center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., For more information, call 311.

THE RESTORE

Located inside the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark, the ReStore is a recycling and waste management education facility. The ReStore is also a repository for small used industrial and consumer items that can be used for art projects. The ReStore also acts as a book and magazine swap site. It is the first center of its kind where citizens can exchange books or take free books. The ReStore is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., For more information, call 311.

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 Solid Waste Management Department. 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 1, 2002.

ADD-A-CAN PROGRAM

The City of Houston's Add-A-Can program provides residents with the opportunity of having a second or third can serviced for a fee. Residents will have their first 90-gallon can serviced free-of-charge. The fee for servicing each additional container (maximum of 3 total) will be $7.50 plus tax per month for a minimum subscription of one (1) year. This fee will 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 311 to enroll in the Add-A-Can program.

TAGS FOR BAGS PROGRAM

Extra bags of garbage are collected only if they have a special sticker tag attached. This new "Tags for Bags" program will allow residents the convenience of purchasing "tags" instead of additional cans if they require extra service only occasionally. Tags for Bags may be purchased at Fiesta, HEB, Kroger and Sellers Bros. supermarkets for a fee of one dollar ($1.00) per tag plus tax. Residents may also download the "Tags for Bags" Order Form from the Solid Waste Management Department website (www.houstonsolidwaste.org) and send their completed form and payment through the mail. A $3 service charge will be required for e-mail, phone, or mail orders. E-mail, phone or mail orders must be purchased in increments of five (5). Bags of yard trimmings do not require Tags for Bags stickers.

311 - Houston residents can now dial 3-1-1 for all non-emergency calls. The 3-1-1 Service Call Center provides Houstonians with one easy to remember telephone number for quick reliable access to City of Houston services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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City of Houston

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