

CITY OF HOUSTON

Your Guide to the Automated Refuse Collection Program and Separate Yard Trimmings Collection

When should I place the container out for service?

Between 6:00 p.m. on the day before and 7:00 a.m. on your service day, roll your City-provided-refuse container to a position at the edge of the curbline.

Exactly where and how should I place the container?

Place it so that it is clear of parked vehicles, trees and other obstructions. Make sure the handle of the container faces your house. After the container has been serviced, it must be removed from the curb. If you are away from home, please make arrangements to have your container placed at the curb and removed after it has been serviced.

What about holidays?

You should observe the guidelines on City-observed holidays. Exceptions will be noted in local newspapers and/or on our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org.

What can I put into the new refuse container?

You may put all of your normal household garbage into the container for **once a week collection**.

What should not go into the new refuse container?

The City will not collect rocks, concrete, dirt or building materials. Please do not place such items as paint, corrosive materials, burning materials, large metal objects, furniture, or dead animals in the container; nor should you place tree branches with a diameter of more than 3 inches. Use heavy trash collection for items you would normally discard as heavy trash.

What should I do with bulky items such as cardboard boxes?

Flatten or cut cardboard boxes to save space. Leave at least 3 feet of space between your container, recycling bin and yard waste bag. Boxes or additional bags of garbage must have a tag on it.

Who is responsible for the new refuse container?

The container is the property of the City of Houston. However, you are required to use it and care for it as your own. If your container is stolen, please call the City of Houston Police Department at (713) 222-3131 to obtain a Case number. Stolen containers will be replaced free of charge if you have a case number.

How should I care for the container?

Keep the container clean and make sure that it is not misused or lost. Rinse it out regularly with a garden hose. The City will repair or replace containers damaged through normal use. Record the container's serial number in the event of loss. The serial number can be located on the top or side wall of the bin.

What should I do with the container if I move?

If you move, notify the Department of Solid Waste Management of the City of Houston by calling 311 and leave the container at the address to which it was registered.

How does yard trimmings collection works?

You will receive separate yard trimmings collection on your regularly scheduled garbage collection day. Only grass clippings and leaves will be accepted for collection in this program. Bags should not exceed 50 pounds and should be placed 3 feet away from your garbage container. Small branches may be put in bundles as long as each bundle is less than 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter and less than 50 pounds.

CAUTION: Yard trimmings must be free of any contaminants, such as paper or plastic that may find their way into your yard. This is vital to the success of this program, so please be careful!

Please place ONLY grass clippings and leaves for this special collection. Continue to leave your limbs and larger clippings-properly sized and bundled-for heavy trash collection.

If you place your yard trimmings at the curb on your yard waste collection day, please keep them separate from household waste. Keeping them separate will help collection personnel to easily distinguish between the different types of waste without having to inspect the bags.

No special bags will be issued; you should continue to use your regular garbage bags.

What is the Automated Refuse Collection System?

Automated Collection is a technologically advanced system, which employs a specially fitted refuse truck. Refuse is mechanically dumped into the truck from a curbside location. The operator uses a set of controls inside the truck cab to operate a mechanical arm that lifts, dumps and returns the container to the curb. The container is equipped with rollers and handles that allow you to move it easily to the curb.

Why is automated collection better?

Automated refuse collection has several advantages over traditional waste collection methods:

- It's more efficient. One automated vehicle operator can do the work of two conventional vehicle operators who collect refuse manually.
- By eliminating manual loading, the automated system keeps staffing levels low, increases productivity and reduces job-related injuries.
- The City will provide durable refuse containers with attached, close-fitting lids to eliminate litter, odor and insect problems. The design of the containers effectively restricts animals from disturbing the refuse.

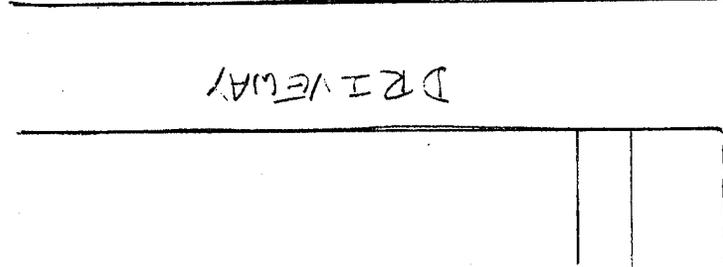
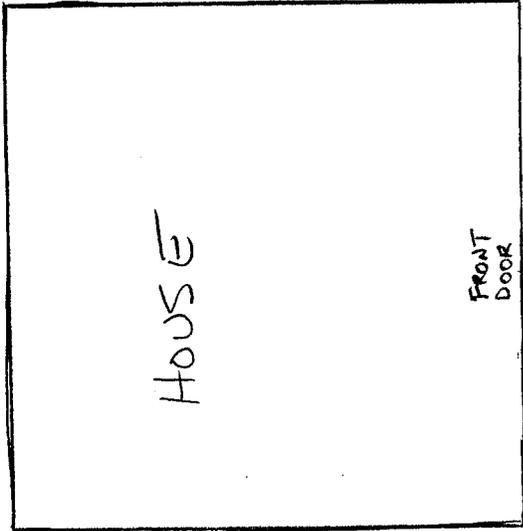
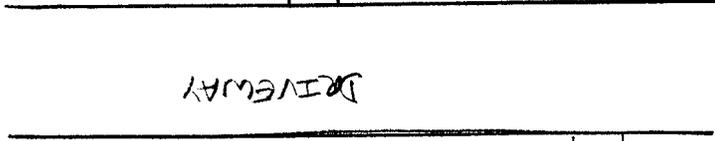
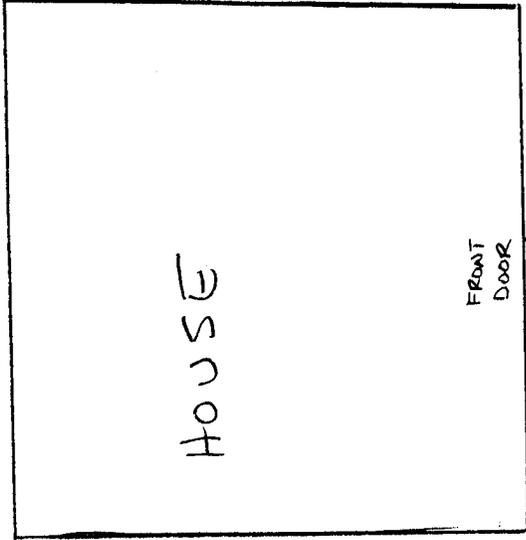
What should I do with extra garbage?

ADD-A-CAN PROGRAM

The City of Houston's Add-A-Can program provides residents with the opportunity of having a second or third container 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 "Tags for Bags" program allows residents the convenience of purchasing "tags" instead of additional cans if they require extra service only occasionally. Tags for Bags may be purchased at participating 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 \$3.00 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.



CORRECT PLACEMENT
OF AUTOMATED
GARBAGE CONTAINER

