Annise D. Parker
Mayor

# the TRASH FACTS

Summer 2011

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 and 5) recyclables and yard trimmings.

## 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 charge of $90 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 heavy trash 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.

IN THIS ISSUE
TREE WASTE/ JUNK WASTE
GO GREEN WITH SWMD!
RECYCLING
DEAD ANIMAL
INFO

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

*~Printed on Recycled Paper~*

# Tree Waste / Junk Waste Recycling Program

The City will collect tree waste exclusively on designated months (odd months) on the resident's current heavy trash 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 the alternating months (even months), residents may set out their junk waste at the curb for city collection. "Junk waste" is used to describe items previously referred to as "heavy trash" such as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. 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.* 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 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 heavy trash collection (furniture, stoves, refrigerators, etc.) Depositories will accept up to 10 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 now open Weds. - 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 and Recycling Center Locations**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| North | 9003 N Main | 713.694.8435 |
| NorthWest | 14400 Sommermeyer | 713.895.1003 |
| NorthEast | 5565 Kirkpatrick | 713.675.3208 |
| East | 2240 Central Street | 713.847.1188 |
| South | 5100 Sunbeam | 713.738.1936 |
| SouthWest | 10785 SW Freeway | 713.541.1953 |

**City Recycling Centers (Junk Waste not accepted)**

**5900 Westpark - Westpark Recycling Center**
**3602 Center Street**
**Ellington Airport (Hwy 3 @ Brantley)**
**Kingwood Park & Ride**

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

# Going Green with SWMD

The SWMD operates two types of residential recycling collection services for participating areas of the City of Houston.

**Curbside Recycling -** utilizes an 18-gallon green bin placed at the curb for collection.

**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, 7 (rinsed & drained)**
**Aluminum and Tin Cans (rinsed & drained)**
**Cardboard (flattened)**
**Glass Bottles and Jars (Automated Recycling Program Only, rinsed & drained)**

## 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 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 infomation, please call 311.

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

**The ReStore** is located within the Westpark Consumer Recycling Facility. It is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday except City holidays. The ReStore acts as a book swap, a recycling information library, and a repository for post consumer and post industrial scrap items that can be used in art projects.

## B.O.P.A.

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

The SWMD has a B.O.P.A. recycling operation at the Westpark Recycling Center. Residents can drop off these items 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.***

# ReUse Warehouse

Construction material accounts for 38% of the waste stream in the Houston area. The Building Materials 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

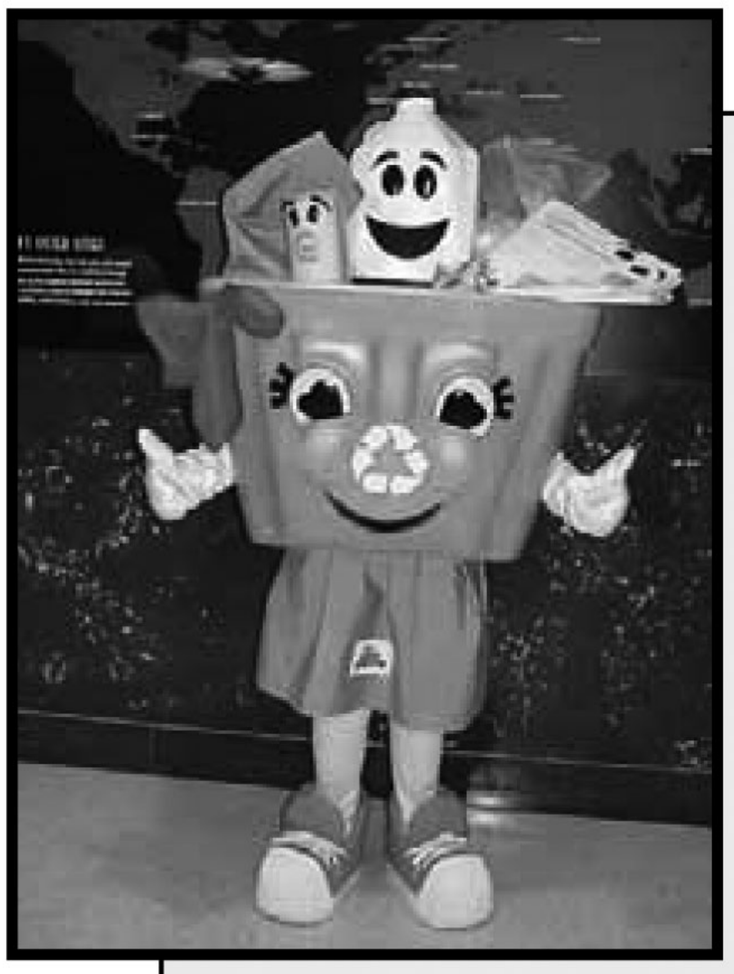
On June 19, 2002, Houston's City Council approved an ordinance amending ArtIcle IV of Chapter 39 of the Houston Code of Ordinances, approving and authorizing the creation of an Extra Capacity Collection Fee (ECC) for the SWMD. Under the umbrella of the ECC ordinance, the Add-A-Can and the Tags for Bags 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 can serviced for a fee. Residents will have their first 96-gallon can serviced free. The fee for for servicing the second/ third can is 15.15 each 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 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 for two dollars ($2) per tag plus tax. Residents may also download an order form at houstonsolidwaste.org and send the completed form and payment through the mail. A $3 service charge is required for e-mail, phone, or mail orders and must be purchased in increments of 5. Yard waste bags do not require tags.



***REQUEST THE SOLID WASTE MASCOT, REUSETTE WISELY, OR A SPEAKER***

***To request the Solid Waste Management Department mascot, Reusette Wisely, 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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