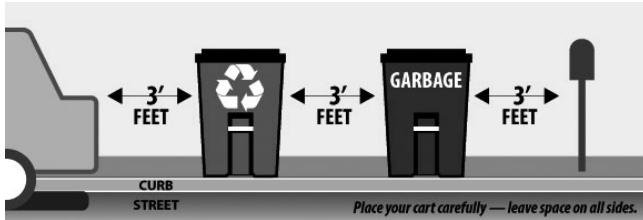




City of Houston  
**Solid Waste Management Department**  
**Curbside Collection Guidelines**



**How to set out your garbage and recycling:**

- City-provided containers must be placed at the curb between 6 p.m. the day before and 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day.
- Container must face the street with handle facing house.
- Containers must be accessible and not blocked by obstacles, including parked cars, trees, mailboxes, fencing etc. Blocked containers will not be emptied.
- Leave at least a 3ft space between garbage and recycling container. This allows the truck to operate safely.
- Containers must be removed from the curb line and/or public view by 10:00 p.m. on the day of collection and stored in a secure location.
- Do **NOT** put the following in your **BLACK GARBAGE** container:
  - Household chemicals
  - Construction, demolition, and remodeling debris
  - Dead animals
  - Computer equipment
  - Recyclables
  - Yard trimmings
  - Hot ashes/coal

*\*Chemicals and hot ashes cause truck fires.*



Logo on City approved compostable bags

**How to set out your yard trimmings:**

- Yard Trimmings, grass clippings, small branches and leaves must be in city-approved compostable bags for collection;
- Filled bags must not weigh more than fifty (50) pounds;
- Yard waste is collected on the same day as garbage.

**YES! Recycle** (*Green Recycling container*)

- **PAPER:** Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, office paper
- **PLASTIC:** Containers #1 - 5 and 7 (rinsed & drained) examples include water and soda bottles, milk jugs, yogurt cups, margarine tubs, detergent bottles
- **ALUMINUM CANS** (rinsed & drained)
- **BIMETAL CANS** (rinsed & drained): Examples include soup cans, vegetable cans, fruit cans, coffee cans
- **GLASS** (rinsed & drained): Bottles, jugs and jars
- **CARDBOARD** (flattened)
- **CARTONS:** Gable top and shelf stable cartons, examples include milk cartons, juice cartons, soup cartons, soy milk/alternative milk cartons

**NO! Does NOT go in your recycling cart**

- Food contaminated paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, paper towels or napkins.
- Yard waste: examples include leaves, grass, twigs, branches
- Textiles: examples include clothing, shoes, sheets, towels, pillows
- Large plastic items such as toys, garden hoses, coolers, furniture, buckets

*NOTE: While some items may technically be able to be recycled, they are not accepted in the curbside recycling program. For more information on recycling and disposal options please see [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org)*

- Bags must be three (3) feet away from the garbage and recycling containers for collection.
- Small branches must be put into bundles with an overall size of less than four (4) feet in length, less than eighteen (18) inches in diameter and weighing less than fifty (50) pounds.
- Yard Trimmings mixed with paper, plastic, or any other type of waste will not be collected.
- Yard Trimmings placed in petroleum based plastic bags will not be collected.
- Yard Trimmings generated by work performed by a contractor, such as a landscaping company or individual, must be removed by the contractor. Contractor generated materials will not be collected by city workers.



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### **How to set out your tree and junk waste:**

- The City collects Tree Waste during ODD months of the collection year. EVEN months Junk Waste is collected.
- "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.
- "Junk waste" is used to describe items such as furniture, appliances and other bulky materials.
- Items must 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 (8) cubic yards of material per residence will be collected on the schedule tree waste/junk waste collection day this is about 2 pickup trucks of material. Of this amount only a maximum of four (4) cubic yards of building material (not to include roofing shingles, bricks, plaster or concrete) generated by the resident in collection with maintenance of the residential property may be placed for collection.
- Sheet rock must be bagged.
- A maximum of four (4) tires per month, per household may be placed for collection.
- Appliances containing refrigerant must have a tag attached to them certifying that a qualified technician has removed the refrigerant.
- Materials must not be stacked under low overhead wires, signs, or mailboxes; next to fences or posts; or on top of water meters, gas meters, fire hydrants, or other exposed utility components.
- Materials in medians are NOT TO be placed in the street, on the sidewalk or interfere in any manner with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

**NOTE:** *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 all debris generated by their work. 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 will refuse the entire load. Solid Waste collection services are not available to multi-residential units of more than eight apartments.*

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### **Dead Animal Pickup:**

#### **City Right-of-Way:**

- To report a dead animal on a public street, call 311, the City's Customer Service Hotline or use the city's 311 app which can be downloaded at [www.houstontx.gov/311/](http://www.houstontx.gov/311/).
- For animal pickup during the weekend, please call from 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. A fee is required for large animal pickup. As Houstonian still maintain horses and cattle in the city limits, the city will remove (for a fee) private dead animals.
- Do not place dead animals with household garbage or tree waste/ junk waste collection

#### **Freeway/Highways:**

- To report dead animals on freeways and feeder, call TXDOT at 713.802.5000.