THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

DIVISION OF REFUSE COLLECTION

A RESIDENT'S GUIDE TO REFUSE SERVICES



The City of Columbus Division of Refuse Collection is dedicated to keeping our community clean and sustainable. Responsible for household trash, yard waste and recycling collection, the division ensures a seamless and efficient process.

Helpful Resources

- Get your trash, recycling and yard waste collection days here.
- Download the PickUp CBUS app on the App Store or Google Play to get collection reminders, service updates and information on recyclables.
- Get bulk collection information here; to schedule bulk pickup contact the 311 Service Center.
- Learn more about our food scraps drop-off locations here.
- Get information on Keep Columbus Beautiful at 614-645-2421 or here.

311 Service Center:
24 hours a day
Online – columbus.gov/311
Email – 311@columbus.gov
Monday - Friday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Call (614) 645-3111



Refuse Collection

Household Trash – To prevent litter and deter rodents, trash must be bagged, tied securely and placed inside your City of Columbus green refuse container. Do not place any trash on the ground around the container.

Your container must be placed within 1 foot of the curb or alley, with the arrow on lid facing outward for collection, 4 feet from vehicles and other obstructions, such as parked vehicles, mailboxes, fences, utility poles, other containers and scheduled bulk items, to give the trash truck's automated arm room to lift and empty your container. Your container must be placed out for pickup by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. It must be removed by 2 p.m. the day after your scheduled collection day and stored until 6 p.m. on the day prior to the next scheduled collection day. If your container is not collected, is damaged, or stolen, contact 311.

If you are unable to set out your container for collection due to a medical condition, contact 311 to apply for Exemption Service.

Bulk Collection

Large household bulk items such as furniture, carpet, mattresses and non-refrigerant appliances, should not be placed in your refuse container. These items may be scheduled for bulk pickup by contacting 311. Bags of trash and boxed items are not considered bulk and should be placed in your refuse container.

Refuse Collection does not collect items such as remodeling and construction debris, tires, refrigerated appliances, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, car parts, pianos, or pool tables. Please contact an authorized, licensed waste hauler for proper disposal.

City of Columbus Observed Holidays

Trash is not collected on these city-observed holidays and your collection day rotates forward one day: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Indigenous Peoples Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Recycling Collection



City of Columbus residents who have city-issued 90-gallon or 300-gallon trash containers are eligible for weekly recycling collection with a city-issued blue container.

Acceptable items in the blue cart: Paper and cardboard (please flatten); plastic bottles, jugs, tubs and cups (lids accepted, remove straws); glass bottles and jars (all colors accepted); metal cans and cups (remove aerosol tips); and cartons (rinse and remove lids).

Items not acceptable: Plastic bags, wrap, or film; batteries, propane tanks or other flammables; tanglers (hoses, wires, chains, clothing or electronics); plastic or foam (plates, food containers).

Drop-off Recycling: In addition, free drop-off recycling locations are located throughout Central Ohio. For a location near you visit recycleright.org.

Yard Waste Collection

Biweekly yard waste collection is available for most Columbus residents. Yard waste must be placed in paper lawn and leaf bags or in reusable containers marked "Yard Waste." Yard waste will not be collected in plastic bags. Small branches should be tied into bundles with twine, no larger than 4 feet long and 2 feet wide. Yard waste bags, containers or bundles must not exceed 50 lbs. Branches/limbs larger than 4 inches in diameter are not accepted. Christmas trees are collected but must be cut into lengths no longer than 4 feet, and be free of decorations, lights, stands and tree bags. Dirt, rocks and sod should be taken to a site seeking fill dirt. Yard waste should be placed in front of your home at the curb, at least 4 feet from vehicles, containers and other obstructions.

Get information on free drop-off yard waste locations here.

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Food Scraps

Columbus residents may use our drop-off locations that collect food scraps for composting. These facilities aim to help decrease the nearly 1 million pounds of food waste dumped at the Franklin County landfill every day. The program allows residents to dispose of food scraps at no charge at nine locations across Columbus. Learn more at columbus.gov/foodwaste

Waste and Reuse Convenience Centers

The Convenience Centers are a no-cost service providing Columbus residents with options to sustainably dispose of, reuse and recycle many items. Refuse Collection staff are available during hours of operation to assist residents and ensure acceptable items only are dropped off at the Convenience Centers.

The Convenience Centers operate at these Refuse Collection transfer stations:

- Alum Creek Convenience Center, 2100 Alum Creek Dr.
- Georgesville Convenience Center, 1550 Georgesville Rd.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

These Items Are Accepted: Household acceptable waste, recyclables, food scraps, yard waste, clothes, furniture, bicycles, bulk waste and select electronics.

These Items Are Not Accepted: Hazardous, flammable, or explosive materials, tires, auto parts or motor oil, construction, remodeling and demolition waste, refrigerated appliances (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, heat pumps, water coolers, air conditioners), medical, infectious or radioactive waste or commercial waste.

Household Hazardous Waste

Household chemicals, such as drain cleaners, paint thinner, oil-based paint, car batteries, gasoline, used oil and other materials that pollute the environment and may be hazardous to Refuse Collection staff, must not be placed in your collection container. Get information on household hazardous waste drop-off locations here.

Illegal Dumping and Litter

Illegal dumping negatively impacts our neighborhoods' quality of life, public health and safety, roads, waterways, wildlife and the environment. Residents should contact 311 if they see incidents of tires, furniture, construction material or other items being illegally dumped in a city alley or vacant lot. If possible, provide:

- License number and description of the vehicle
- Description of the dumper
- Description of type of material dumped
- The dumping location
- Photos or video of the dumping while it is occurring

KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Keep Columbus Beautiful is a City of Columbus community improvement program and a national affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. The program focuses on public education and volunteer service related to quality-of-life environmental issues including litter, recycling, and beautification. Keep Columbus Beautiful can help you organize and equip a neighborhood cleanup and provide speakers to promote litter prevention and recycling.

Get more information regarding city trash, recycling and other Refuse Collection services here.

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