



# RECYCLING **BULK** TRASH

## YARD WASTE & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS



### A Guide to DPW's Special Collections



Government of the District of Columbia  
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

#### Dear DC resident:

The District of Columbia is an environmentally conscious community, and we are growing greener every day. As the District's primary solid waste management organization, the Department of Public Works (DPW) must do more than collect everyday trash. Special materials need special treatment. The information in this brochure tells you how to ensure that these particular household items are disposed of properly.

They include:

- **Recyclable Materials** – Newspapers, magazines, bottles and cans are collected separately from household trash every week so that they can be made into new items for you.
- **Yard Waste** – Leaves, grass clippings, small branches and tree limbs.
- **Bulk Trash** – Some refuse, such as old mattresses, doesn't fit easily into our trash trucks! Additionally, refrigerators, air conditioners, and other appliances contain materials that pose potential health risks if improperly handled. For those reasons, we collect bulk trash by appointment, rather than on trash day.
- **Household Hazards** – Pesticides, solvents, automotive fluids, and cleaning chemicals, are collected separately twice a year because they can be dangerous when crushed, mixed with other materials, or burned.

## Recycling is Easy!

**D**o put recyclables out no earlier than 6:30 pm the night before and no later than 6:00 am on the morning of collection. Leaving recyclables out for longer periods exposes them to rain or snow and ruins them for recycling.

**D**o bundle newspaper, magazines, catalogs, and office paper or put them in brown paper grocery bags. This makes it easier to process them.

**D**o flatten and bundle corrugated cardboard boxes into sections no more than 42 inches in any direction.

**DO NOT** put your recyclables in plastic bags. Plastic bags can contaminate the quality of the recyclable materials. Also, it is a violation of the sanitation code to use plastic grocery bags or shopping bags for recycling or trash collection.

**DO NOT** put garbage, trash, or non-recyclables in your recycling bin. Collection crews will not empty bins contaminated with trash. Also, trash in the recycling bin may provide food for rats.

## Yard Waste Collection

DPW collects yard waste from residents that already receive DC trash collection services. Leaves, brush and grass clippings should be bagged. Branches and limbs must be tied into four-foot length.

Place all properly bagged or bundled materials at the regular collection point for trash pick-up on trash collection day. **Residents with twice-a-week collection should set out their yard waste on their second weekly trash collection day.**

### Helpful Tips

- Residents are restricted to 7 bags or bundles per collection. Do not use wire or tape to bundle branches. Use twine or string.
- Bags and bundles should weigh no more than 60 pounds. Bundles should also be no more than four feet in length.

### Did You Know That Yard Waste Can Also Be Recycled?

There are four ways to reduce, reuse and recycle yard waste:

- 1) Leaves, grass and pine needles make excellent mulch!
- 2) Don't bag those grass clippings. Let them degrade naturally.
- 3) Learn the fine art of composting!
- 4) Select plants - including grass varieties - that grow slowly or moderately. Remember that over-watering and over-fertilizing lead to **overgrowth**.

## Why Recycle?

**R**ecycling is an essential element of the District's comprehensive solid waste management program. Recycling recovers valuable resources, lessens greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces our reliance on landfills and resource recovery plants. It conserves energy and our natural resources because it reduces the need for raw materials.

**T**his morning's newspaper can be recycled into tomorrow's newsprint or remanufactured into paperboard. Cans and bottles can be recycled into new containers, toys, traffic cones, furniture or art.

**R**ecycling means reusing items we might normally put in the trash - things like aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass jars and paper. By recycling these materials, you are helping to remove them from the "waste stream" and converting them into new, reusable products!



Department of Public Works  
Solid Waste Management Administration  
Recycling Hotline (202) 645-8245

# WEEKLY RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

PLACE RECYCLING BIN OUT NO EARLIER THAN  
6:30 PM THE EVENING BEFORE COLLECTION!

## Paper Products – Bag or Bundle



### Newspaper:

Put in paper bags or tie in bundles.  
Include all inserts.

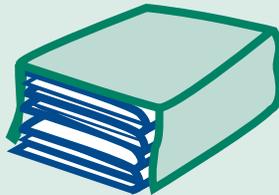
### Computer and office paper:

Put in paper bags or tie in bundles.

### Corrugated Cardboard:

Flatten and tie into bundles that are no more than 42 inches in any direction.

**NO Pizza boxes or carry out containers!**



### Magazines, Catalogs, and Phone Books:

Put in paper bags or tie in bundles. Mailing labels, paperback books and direct mail pieces are OK!

**No hardback books!**



**WE CAN NOW ACCEPT MIXED PAPER, SUCH AS  
SHOE BOXES, CEREAL BOXES AND PAPERBACK  
BOOKS!**

## SCHEDULE

Once -a -week trash collection  
Recyclables collection same day

Twice-a-week trash collection  
Recyclables collection on second  
day

Solid Waste Management Administration RECYCLING HOTLINE (202) 645-8245

## Containers – Place Directly in the Recycling Bin

*Please rinse all containers. This eliminates potential food for vermin.  
DO NOT recycle containers used for automotive fluids or poisons.*



### Glass Containers:

Clear and colored jars and bottles. Rinse, and remove caps and rings.



**NO light bulbs, cookware, or window glass.**

### Metal Cans:

Rinse food and beverage cans. Labels are ok.  
Crush cans flat, if possible.

**We can now accept clean pie plates and other foil products.**



### Plastic Bottles, Jars, and Jugs:

Narrow-necked containers only. Rinse, crush flat (step on it!), and remove caps and rings.

**NO yogurt containers, butter tubs, peanut butter jars, plastic bags, plastic wrap, or clear supermarket containers such as those used for cherry tomatoes and berries.**



# Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

## HAZARDS



## IN THE HOME

You may not realize it... but you have potentially hazardous materials in your home. When these products are used according to direction, they pose little threat to the environment. It's when you try to dispose of them that you may be contributing to pollution or endangering pets and people.

Instead of taking this risk, bring them to one of the District's Household Hazardous Waste Collection. This biannual service is free! Check our website for dates – [www.dpw.dc.gov](http://www.dpw.dc.gov).

During this event, DPW also provides E-cycling collection for computers, TVs and other audio/video equipment – except speakers – for recycling. TV screens and computer monitors must be intact (not cracked or broken).

## Materials to Bring to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection

- Acids
- Ink/Stains/Varnish
- Antifreeze/Automotive Fluids
- Furniture Stripper
- Drain Openers
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Chemistry Sets
- Roofing Tar
- Fuel, i.e., gasoline or kerosene
- Poisons/Pesticides
- Solvents/Thinners
- Leftover Paint
- Batteries (All Types)
- Caustic Household Cleaners
- Lawn and Garden Chemicals
- Computers and Electronics
- Photographic Chemicals
- Asbestos Tiles

# Bulk Collection

Sometimes, residents need to get rid of items that are just too large for the regular trash. The Department of Public Works collects large, bulky items – by appointment only – from households that receive DPW service.

To arrange for a bulk pick-up, call the Citywide Call Center at (202) 727-1000. Appointments usually are schedule within 10 days. Up to seven (7) items may be collected at one time. If you have a lot of bulk trash, subsequent appointments may be necessary. Bulk items should be put at your normal point of trash collection, unless otherwise directed.

## Acceptable Bulk Items:

- Wood/timber (cut and tied into four-foot length)
- Household furniture
- Major appliances
- Hot water heaters
- Mattresses, box springs and bed frames
- Tires (up to 4 only)
- Rugs (MUST be rolled and tied!)
- Large toys (kiddie pools, playhouses)

## Unacceptable Bulk Items:

- Household or gardening chemicals
- Hazardous and/or liquid waste
- Tree stumps
- Bricks, cement blocks
- Multiple doors, windows from renovation