The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) provides once a week trash and recycling collection service to approximately 43,000 homes. Each customer is eligible to receive 5 special pickups per fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

Trash/recycling will be collected between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Staff will empty containers and return them to the curb/streetline. The homeowner is responsible for storing and cleaning the containers. The County is not responsible for items not intended for collection that are placed next to trash/recycle containers. The County is not responsible for damage to or loss of personal trash containers.

All trash/recycling must be placed at the curb in the proper container by 6 a.m. on your collection day.

Carts

Trash carts (gray) are for household trash only. Do not use these carts for recycling or yard waste. Carts provided by the County should not be loaded to more than 100 pounds. Personal trash containers should not be loaded to more than 50 pounds.

Recycle carts (blue) are used for recycling only. Do not use these carts for trash or yard waste. Do not place plastic bags in your recycling cart.

Trash and Recycling Collection

Trash and recycling may be left if improperly prepared for collection.

- Set your carts out by 6 a.m. on your collection day.
- Don’t place containers at the curb more than 1 day before your collection day; remove them within 24 hours after collection.
- Trash collection is for wastes accumulated in normal household use.
- Secure carts to keep contents from spilling onto street.
- Bag household trash before placing it in the trash cart.
- Your set out items must consist only of accumulated materials from normal home activities.
- All trash not in the trash cart (including smaller household items): Must be placed in bags or boxes; Weight limit of 50 pounds per bag/box; Limit combination of excess bags and boxes to 10.

Subscribe to receive Trash Collection E-Updates at: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/trash-collection-e-updates

What to Recycle: The biggest problem facing the recycling industry is contamination caused by the wrong items being thrown into recycling carts.

No need to collect your recyclables using plastic bags. This makes it harder to process. Let your recyclables run loose in the cart! Recycle plastic bags at the grocery store.

Here are some simple rules to follow to avoid contamination and to make sure your recycling is put to good future use.

- Rinse and remove any remaining food or liquid contents from your recyclables.
- NO plastic bags, NO takeout containers, NO diapers, NO pizza boxes, NO Styrofoam, NO packaging peanuts, NO Clamshell containers either Styrofoam or clear plastic.

Residential properties can recycle the following materials:

- Mixed paper and flattened cardboard
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal food and beverage cans
- Cartons (milk, juice) remove caps and straws
- Plastic food and beverage bottles, jugs, tubs.

Yard Waste (grass, leaves and brush): Yard waste does not include soil, mulch, sod, stumps, whole trees, large branches or limbs or clean-up from storm damage.

Each year, from March 1 – December 24 yard waste must be placed at the curb separately for collection. Yard waste can be placed in plastic bags, paper yard bags, carts purchased from a local store. Small quantities of yard waste can be tied in bundles (no longer than 4 feet in length, and no more than 50 pounds in weight). Branches must not exceed 6 inches in diameter. More than 4 bundles of tied yard waste should be scheduled for a special collection.
Special Collections: Your base service includes 5 special collections per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). You must schedule special collections in advance. The cut off time for next day pickups is 2:30 PM the day before your collection day. Special collection piles are limited to:

- 12 cubic yards of material (a pile about 5 feet x 6 feet x 10 feet)
- Piles of heavy/dense materials are limited to 6 cubic yards.
- Materials must be no bigger than 6 feet long and 6 inches in diameter.
- We need 20 feet of clearance on all sides of debris pile as well as above the debris pile so that we can safely collect. Do not put debris under power wires or tree branches.

To schedule a special collection, contact the Customer Service Center at 703-802-3322, TTY 711 or go to: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/county-collection-customers/special-pick-up

Megabulk: The Megabulk Program is designed to help customers remove whole trees and large loads of waste from their properties - including construction and demolition waste. The minimum charge for a Megabulk collection is $100, but prices will vary depending on the volume of material. Material must not be placed under power lines or tree limbs; we require 20 feet of clearance on all sides and above the pile. Waste may not be left at the curb for more than 10 days. You are responsible for removing the material within 10 days, either with the Megabulk Program, another contractor or by self-hauling the waste. Failure to do so may result in Fairfax County removing the materials at your risk and expense. The minimum cost for county removal of abandoned materials is $250 plus actual labor, equipment and disposal costs.

Missed Collections: Report missed collections the following business day by 4:30 p.m. You may report a missed collection online or by calling 703-802-3322

Holiday Schedule: Regular trash, recycling, brush and bulk collection services are provided on all holidays except Christmas Day. The Customer Service Center is closed in observance of all county holidays.

Severe Weather/Emergency: In the interest of safety, trash and recycling collection may be suspended in severe weather or in emergency situations. For emergency and severe weather status updates, call 703-802-3322, TTY 711.

Acceptable Materials
- Glass (must be boxed up and taped closed and labeled “glass”)
- Syringes, Needles and Other Medical Sharps. Place in a sturdy plastic container (like a laundry detergent bottle) with screw-on top. Mark the container “residential sharps”
- Vehicle tires (limit of 4 with no rims)

Unacceptable Materials
- Animal carcasses
- Asbestos
- Automobile or auto parts
- Compressed cylinders (any size)
- Construction and demolition debris/home renovation/remodeling debris (drywall, shingles, roofing material, insulation, soil, rocks, concrete)
- Hazardous waste including paint, oil, and other chemical wastes
- Liquids, including sewage and septic waste
- Medical Waste