

# Oklahoma City Solid Waste Management

# Set Out Guide

Everything you need to know about  
your solid waste collection services.



The City of  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
Solid Waste Management Division



## ¿Se habla español?

Una versión en español de la Guía para sacar desechos sólidos se encuentra disponible a solicitud para nuestros vecinos hispanos. Comuníquese con el Centro de Atención de Servicios Públicos al Cliente a través del 297-2833 o por correo electrónico a [water@okc.gov](mailto:water@okc.gov). La guía en español también está disponible en el sitio web de la ciudad de Oklahoma en [okc.gov](http://okc.gov).

# Once a Week

## Take out the Recycling . . .

Little Blue recycling bins help us be "green." The City provides these bins to customers in the urban service area. Collection crews will sort and collect recyclables. Little Blue bins should be set out on weekly trash collection days, five feet away from Big Blue.



## ... and the Trash

### 6 a.m. weekly collection day.

Big Blue and Little Blue should be on the curb, waiting for the collection trucks to arrive. All trash, including bagged yard waste, should be inside Big Blue with the lid closed. It's a good idea to set trash carts and recycling bins out late the evening before.

Remember, just because it fits doesn't mean it belongs in Big Blue. It's for weekly household trash only. Home construction materials – roofing, flooring, lumber, toilets, sinks, particle board, etc. – make Big Blue too heavy and harm our trucks. Instead, set these items out for monthly bulk waste collection.

### Big Blue should face the street, but not be in the street.

Make sure trash trucks can get to your cart. Place it at least five feet from obstacles, such as mailboxes, shrubs, fire hydrants, cars and Little Blue. It's best not to park in the street on collection day.

### By 8 p.m. the next day.

Keep your neighborhood neat and clean. Put empty trash carts and recycling bins away as soon as possible or at least by 8 p.m. the next day.

## Recyclables Include:

### ■ Plastics # 1-7

#### Empty containers

- Milk, juice, pop and water bottles
- Yogurt, dairy and margarine tubs
- Shampoo and conditioner bottles
- Detergent, fabric softener bottles
- Prescription vials - empty
- Clean garden pots or flats
- Rigid packaging material

(no Styrofoam)

### ■ Glass

#### Empty and remove lids

#### No need to remove labels

- Glass bottles and jars - any color
- Mason jars

### ■ Aluminum and Tin Cans

#### Empty

#### No need to remove labels

- Aluminum cans
- Steel or tin cans
- Clean aluminum foil and foil trays

### ■ Paper

- Newspaper
- Shredded paper
- Advertising inserts
- Junk mail and envelopes
- Paperback books
- Magazines and catalogs
- Phone books

## We Don't Collect:

### ■ Plastics

- Styrofoam containers, cups or plates *(even those with recycle symbol 6)*
- Styrofoam blocks
- Plastic film shopping bags
- Dry cleaner bags
- Packing peanuts
- Blister packs or bubble wrap

- Plastic stretch wrap
- 5-gallon bottles
- Toxic containers\* *(motor oil, etc.)*
- Automotive plastics
- Household or storage containers
- Hoses or lawn furniture

### ■ Glass

- Broken glass
- Mirrors
- Window glass
- Ceramics or dishes
- Light bulbs\*

### ■ Paper

- Soiled or wet newspaper
- Bathroom tissue
- Food-soiled paper *(pizza boxes or carry-out containers)*
- Disposable diapers or rags
- Ribbons or wrapping paper
- Hardback books
- Frozen-food boxes
- Coated containers *(juice boxes or milk cartons)*

### ■ Cardboard

- Wax or plastic coated cardboard
- Cereal, food or gift boxes

### ■ Metals

- Aerosol cans or paint cans\*
- Hangers
- Metal caps or lids
- Oil containers
- Scrap metal
- Pots or pans

We'll leave these items in the bin so you can put them in Big Blue for the next weekly pickup.

\* Take these items to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

# Once a Month

## Get Rid of Junk

Got items too big or awkward to fit in a Big Blue cart? No problem. Set big junk out on your scheduled monthly Bulk Waste Day – but, please – no earlier than three days before. Early set out makes the neighborhood and our city a mess and violates city ordinance. Fines could be up to \$500. Monthly bulk waste collection days are printed on utility bills and available at [okc.gov](http://okc.gov) or by calling 297-2833.

Also, remember to keep bulk waste 10 feet away from overhead obstacles and 5 feet away from mailboxes, Big Blue carts, parked cars, etc. Please keep big junk in the yard and not in the street. It's best not to park in the street on collection day.

## What's Bulk Waste?

- Large and small household appliances
- Furniture, mattresses and carpet
- Large cardboard boxes
- Trees, limbs less than 8 ft. long (no need to bundle)
- Fencing



We pick up refrigerators and cooling devices containing Freon®, if you do two things first:  
1. Call 297-2833 to schedule the pickup  
2. Remove the doors

## What's Not Collectible?

- Automotive parts
- Batteries of any type\*
- Tires and rims
- Liquid paints and solvents\*
- Pathological or hospital waste
- Oils\*
- Poisons\*
- Acids and caustics\*
- Explosives
- Excrement
- Diapers and pet waste
- Dirt, bricks, rocks and concrete
- Sewage and liquid waste
- Nuclear materials
- Fuels of all types\*
- Propane tanks\*
- Degreasers and lubricants\*
- Brake fluid\*
- Rust remover\*

- Pool chemicals\*
- Pesticides\*
- Fertilizer\*
- Antifreeze\*
- Car batteries\*
- Automobile frames
- Crankcase, transmissions
- Uncontained sheetrock, concrete, gypsum and roofing materials
- Contracted construction, remodeling or demolition debris

\* Take these items to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

## How Much Bulk Waste is OK?

Up to four cubic yards – about the size of six clothes dryers or two refrigerators. Crews will pick up more, but will charge your utility bill for each additional cubic yard.



## Once in a While

### Haul off Household Hazardous Waste

Common household hazardous products don't belong in the weekly or bulk waste collections. Instead, be good to the environment and take them to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. No charge, but take a current utility bill for proof of residency. For more information or a complete list of items accepted, go to [okc.gov](http://okc.gov).

#### Household Hazardous Waste Facility

1621 S. Portland  
9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturdays  
Phone: 682-7038

### Saturday Morning Sweep

Here's a great way to clean up litter, illegal dumping and tree and brush debris from common areas, easements, greenbelts and medians: Hold a Saturday Morning Sweep. Neighborhoods and homeowner's associations can schedule this event once a year, April through September. Sweeps are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The City delivers a commercial dumpster, and the neighborhood provides the volunteers. Later that day, the City will haul off the dumpster and pay disposal fees.

For more information, call 297-2464.

## Free Landfill Day

**Twice a year**, Oklahoma City residents can take old junk and debris to a landfill for free. Each household may drop off one load using a passenger vehicle or truck (up to 1-ton) and one trailer (up to 16-feet long). A current utility bill is required as proof of residency. Bulk waste rules and regulations apply. Watch for announcements in the spring and fall.

## Make No Waste

**Mulch** instead of mow. You'll save time on yard work and money on yard products. Plus, your yard will love it. Clippings contain nutrients and fertilizers – that you pay for. Return them to the soil instead of the landfill. You'll spend less time mowing and bagging and more time in the pool, at the golf course or reading, shopping, napping or anything else you'd rather do.

**Composting** eliminates trash going to the landfill. Just toss organic materials – grass clippings, leaves and twigs, fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shells and coffee grounds – in a compost bin instead of the Big Blue cart. In a few months, you'll have rich soil for your flower beds and gardens.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I use my own trash can?** No. Only Big Blues. The automated collection trucks can't pick up other containers.
- **Will bagged yard waste or garbage be picked up?** Only in the urban service area – after two carts are filled. If one cart isn't big enough, order another. No extra charge for the second.
- **How many Big Blues can I have?** You may have up to four Big Blues. An additional monthly fee will be charged to your utility bill for the third and fourth cart.
- **Who are "urban service area" customers?** Urban customers are residents generally, from north to south, between N.W. 192 and S.W. 179 and from County Line to Bryant, in some areas. Call 297-2833 to confirm your location.
- **What if my Big Blue gets damaged?** If carts are worn out, damaged or stolen, the City will repair or replace them. Just call 297-2833 to request a repair or replacement.
- **How big of a trash bag can I use?** High-strength 30-gallon bags weighing less than 75 pounds each.
- **How much waste does Big Blue hold?** 96 gallons of residential waste – about the same amount as four metal or plastic garbage cans.
- **Can the contractor remodeling my house use Big Blue?** No. Big Blue and your solid waste services are for residential use only.
- **What if my weekly or bulk waste is missed?** Call 297-2833 no later than two days after your weekly collection day and no later than three days after bulk waste day.
- **Will computer equipment be collected?** No. Computers cannot be set out on weekly collection or bulk waste days. You can take computer equipment to any recycling center listed at [okc.gov](http://okc.gov) under "Beyond the Bin" or in the Yellow Pages.
- **How do I recycle "Beyond the Bin"?** For recyclables that don't belong or fit in your Little Blue recycling bin, go to [okc.gov](http://okc.gov) and click on the Little Blue character in the left-hand column. Then scroll down to "Beyond the Bin" for a handy list of places to take certain items, such as automotive items, batteries, electronics and more.
- **Can I take Big Blue with me if I move?** No. Big Blue must stay behind. Each cart has a serial number and is assigned to the house address.
- **Should I bag trash for Big Blue?** Yes. Bagging trash and garbage reduces odor, keeps the carts clean and prevents litter. Collection crews do not pick up blow-away trash.
- **How do I take care of Big Blue?** Rinse it off once in a while and clean the inside to reduce odors.

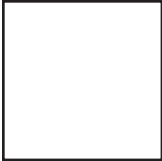
## Recipe for Homemade Compost

Select a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost pile or bin. Add equal parts of three basic ingredients, chopped or shredded:

- Browns (dead leaves, branches and twigs)
- Greens (grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps and coffee grounds)
- Water, moistening dry materials as they are added

Mix well and stir frequently for about six months. Don't allow the mixture to become too wet or too dry. Cover top of compost with tarp (optional) to keep it moist. When the material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, your compost is ready to use.





The City of Oklahoma City  
Utilities Department  
420 W. Main, Suite 500  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102



# Love the Earth

## Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

- Close the recycling loop by purchasing items made from recycled materials.
- Shop with reusable totes and reduce the need for plastic bags.
- Buy products with little or no packaging. About a third of the trash in a landfill is packaging materials.
- Pay bills online. If every house in the U.S. did this, we'd save 18 million trees a year.
- Drink tap water in reusable beverage containers. Americans throw away about 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Recycle broken, unwanted or obsolete electronics.
- Buy quality reusable products instead of disposable ones.
- Donate household items instead of throwing them away.