Helpful Hints: Refuse Pick-up & Recycling

How can you make your garbage pickups more efficient? How can you make it safer for the city workers who pick up your trash? How can you get the maximum value from city services? Here are some helpful tips:

Sanitation Service: Place your refuse cart at your curb by 7:00 a.m. on the day of your pickup with the handle facing toward the house, not toward the street.

Only trash generated in your household goes in your cart. Put your cart far enough into the street that a car cannot pull up and block a truck from reaching it.

If your cart is lost or stolen, call (409) 797-3630 for a replacement cart, for which you will be billed a one-time charge of $55. You may also call this number if you need additional carts, available for a fee of $5 per month per cart. If your cart needs repairs (such as a broken lid), call 797-3630 to have it repaired or replaced at no charge.

Make it Safe. Look up to see if there is a 15 foot clearance for a big truck to pick up your trash. Make sure your trash cart is not blocked by low hanging trees or wires. If you use syringes, put them in a covered container before placing them in a garbage bag or cart.

Place things that will not fit into the cart right next to it. The City will pick up paint cans as long as the paint is dried and the can is sitting next to your trash cart. Dry paint by throwing away the lid and putting kitty litter or sand in the can. Be sure NOT to cover any utility meters or connections (water, gas, telephone) with trash. You will be responsible for any damage that occurs during pick-up. If you have work done on your home, your contractor should remove debris and building materials.

Bulk trash pickup (furniture, appliances, white goods, large brush piles) must be scheduled for pickup by calling Public Works at (409)797-3630. Scheduled bulk trash will be picked up within twenty-four (24) hours. Please call by 3:00 to schedule your bulk trash pickup for the following day. Friday requests will be scheduled for Monday pickup. Freon must be removed by a certified tech from any appliance/white good(s) and red-tagged in order for sanitation crews to pick up.

Stack clean brush neatly in one pile, no more than 5 feet in length. If you want to compost clean brush, you must call 741-1446 to arrange to take CLEAN brush (not mixed with paper or bricks) to the compost pile. Questions about garbage, trash, and litter? Call 797-3630.

If you have a dumpster, it must have a permit by October 1 each year. To purchase a permit (there is a $25.00 permit fee), call 797-3630. Check www.cityofgalveston.org to get a permit application and enclosure specifications. Dumpsters must have an enclosure on all four sides and must be kept clean. If it is not possible to screen your dumpster, you may apply for a “license to use” a dumpster in the planning department at City Hall and renew the license annually.
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The Transfer Station: Galveston residents may make one trip per month to the City refuse transfer station with up to 1,000 pounds of material. A current water bill that matches a current valid driver’s license or a photo ID are required. Businesses are assessed a fee for this service.

The Transfer Station, 5515 Harborside, is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Examples of what to bring to the transfer station: building materials, roofing materials, auto parts, things that will not fit in your trash cart. Do not bring the following: paint, gasoline, kerosene, concrete, tires, combustible materials, appliances that contain Freon, compressed aerosol cans.

Recycling:

The City Eco-Center is located at 702 61st Street (just North of Broadway/I-45). Attendants are available to assist you from 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Convenient containers are outside the gate for after hour delivery. Curbside recycling is available for senior citizens over age 65 and people with disabilities on the second Friday of each month. Call 797-3630 to be added to the list.

Examples of what to recycle: Styrofoam, clear and brown glass, aluminum cans, plastics (milk jugs, water and soda bottles, laundry detergent containers), paper that is not coated in wax (office paper, newspapers, preferably in paper bags, magazines, broken-down cardboard), used motor oil, used and bad fuel, antifreeze, auto and truck tires, tire rims, appliances that are certified “freon-free” (refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, dryers, air conditioners).

The Eco-Center can also supply mulch and compost free of charge to Galveston residents. To obtain compost, call 797-3630. Bring buckets or bags to the Eco-Center.

Recycling works best when you begin with recycled products. It extends the life of the landfill; saves the trees, water and fish; and creates jobs. It also saves the city funds. Living on an island with limited natural resources, these are critically important! You are helping others as well as yourselves, for generations to come!