



# Why? What? How?

**Lakewood Green Refuse and Recycling Initiative** | Automated Trash Pickup | Mandatory Recycling

# Why?



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## Refuse and Recycling Facts

In a recent year, the city spent \$774,901 on landfill costs, and added more than 20,000 tons of trash to landfills—that's the equivalent of burying the Lakewood Public Library every year.

We can reduce our landfill costs and impact on the environment by recycling more. In fact, the city can earn more than \$100,000 in revenue by recycling. And we can save that much by using landfills less.

Automated refuse collection will also reduce labor and fuel costs by about half a million dollars every year.

Reducing the city's fleet of vehicles will reduce carbon emissions by more than 100 tons every year.

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## Dear Resident,

The City of Lakewood is proud to introduce the Lakewood Green Refuse and Recycling Initiative, which will automate the City's refuse collection system and mandate recycling at properties that receive municipal refuse collection.

"Why?" you ask. The simple answer is money. Your money, your tax dollars.

Automated refuse collection is the most efficient and cost effective system available today. And, mandatory recycling participation will save tax dollars by reducing disposal costs, while conserving natural resources.

We know that change isn't always easy, but these changes will provide efficient and cost-effective services while providing long-term economic and environmental benefits to the community.

This guide was prepared to increase understanding of the curbside automated waste collection system and the mandatory recycling program. Please contact the Division of Refuse and Recycling for further information.

# What?



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## Holiday Collection

Lakewood does not collect on:

New Year's Day	Independence Day
Martin Luther King	Labor Day
President's Day	Thanksgiving
Good Friday	Christmas
Memorial Day	

If a holiday is at the beginning of the week, collections may be later than normal; if the holiday is at the end of the week, collections may be earlier.

Contact the Division of Refuse and Recycling or visit the web site for information regarding your refuse and recycling collection schedule.

Please have everything ready by 6:30 a.m. on the scheduled day.

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## General Information

Beginning in May 2009, the City will not collect refuse from behind homes. Over a period of several weeks, a 96-gallon (larger than three regular trash bins) wheeled cart will be delivered to each residential address. These special containers will be picked up by City of Lakewood automated refuse trucks. The carts are then dumped into the trucks using a hydraulic lifting system.

Residents will not be charged for their cart, though additional carts can be purchased for a fee. Residents who receive a cart should begin using it right away and set it out for their next collection day.

Collection days will remain the same. Set the carts out after 6:00 p.m. the night before your collection day, or by 6:30 a.m. on your collection day.

There will be no change to how recyclables, yard waste and bulk trash are collected, though all residents are now required to recycle. Read on to find out how.

# How?

## Weekly Curbside Collection Quick Reference Guide (hang on your fridge!)

### Automated Refuse

- Place all household trash that will fit in the cart with the lid closed. Bag and tie all household garbage before placing inside the refuse carts. The carts hold up to 350 lbs.
- Set the cart out after 6:00 p.m. the night before collection day, or before 6:30 a.m. the day of collection. Return the cart to your backyard the evening of collection day.
- Place the carts at the curb with the arrow on the lid pointing towards the street. Keep 3' clear on both sides of the cart.
- Do not include hazardous waste, paint, chemicals, motor oil, liquids, dead animals, hot ashes, construction debris, yard waste or recyclables in the bin.

### Bulk Trash

- Place bulk trash such as furniture, cut and tied lumber, non-recyclable boxes and household items on the curb at least 3' from the refuse cart. Limit weight to 50 lbs.
- Appliances and other large recyclable metal are collected by calling the Division of Refuse and Recycling to schedule a pickup.
- Construction debris from home improvement projects will be collected as bulk trash, but contractors are responsible for their own disposal.
- Dirt and sod are collected as trash and can be contained in garbage cans or strong plastic bags. Read on for other yard waste.

### Yard Waste

- Stuff leaves, grass clippings, plant trimmings and yard debris into paper yard waste bags or garbage cans marked "Yard Waste" for curbside collection. Do not use plastic bags.
- Brush, shrubs, tree limbs and stumps (4" in diameter or smaller) should be cut into 4' lengths and tied securely with strong twine or rope. Bundles should be smaller than 18" in diameter and less than 50 lbs.
- Large tree limbs and stumps must be cut no larger than 18" in length, 6" diameter and stacked neatly.
- Limit the weight of all bags, containers and bundles to 50 lbs.

### Mixed Paper & Cardboard

- Pack mixed paper and cardboard tightly in paper grocery bags or other recyclable paper material, like cereal boxes, so nothing will fall out. Tie bundles with string. Limit size to 2' x 2' and weight to 30 lbs.
- Label closed boxes "Paper Recycle."
- Recycle most paper products including envelopes, greeting cards, newspaper and glossy inserts (visit [OneLakewood.com](http://OneLakewood.com) for complete list).
- Wax-coated containers (i.e. frozen food boxes, juice & milk cartons,) spiral bindings, waxed paper, food-stained items and foil or plastic lined boxes are not recyclable. They are trash.

### Blue Bag Mixed Containers

- Combine all rinsed out glass jars & bottles, metal cans and plastics together in blue or clear plastic bags. Limit weight to 30 lbs.
- Include aluminum and bimetal cans, aluminum foil and trays.
- Include plastics numbered 1-7 such as pop & water bottles, milk jugs, food tubs, squeezable bottles, grocery bags, bread & dry cleaning bags and DVD cases.
- Do not include broken glass, window glass, light bulbs, ceramics, toys, food-soiled items or Styrofoam with your recyclables. These are not recyclable. They are trash.

Set all items on the curb after 6:00 p.m. the night before your collection day, or before 6:30 a.m. on your collection day.

Owners may be fined for leaving refuse, recyclables and/or bins on the tree lawn at other times.

#### Help us save your tax dollars! Please!

- The City does not collect paint, solvents, motor oil, tires, or hazardous materials from the curb. These items may be delivered to the refuse Drop Off Facility. Call for details.
- Place the cart at the curb with the arrow on the lid pointing towards the street. Keep 3' clear on each side.
- Set recyclables apart from refuse carts and bulk trash for more efficient collection.
- Keep paper and blue bag recycling separate.
- Do not leave untied bags or loose items or recycle on the tree lawn. They cause litter!

# Questions?

## Why must we recycle?

Recycling saves tax dollars and conserves natural resources.

## Who must recycle?

All Lakewood households that receive municipal refuse collection services.

## What will happen if I don't recycle?

Residents will be given time to get into the habit of recycling. The Division of Refuse and Recycling will provide educational recycling material and encouragement to residents who do not recycle. Supervisors will deliver a warning notification to property owners that don't recycle. Households that continuously refuse to recycle may be fined, or denied refuse and recycling collection.

## What about people who dispose of their recyclables in a different way or who do not generate much waste?

The City's objective is to reduce disposal costs. Residents who dispose of their recyclables through other means will not be penalized.

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**Green Tip!** Mulch fall leaves into the lawn with a mulching mower. Up to 6" of leaves can be mulched per mowing. Use surplus shredded leaves to cover garden areas to protect plants over the winter. Shredded leaves will decompose quickly in the spring to feed the garden with nutrients.

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## What do I recycle?

**Blue Bag Mixed Recycle:** Glass jars & bottles, plastic bottles and containers (recycle symbol & numbers 1–7), aluminum, steel & tin cans. Contain together in blue or clear plastic bags. Tie the bags closed.

**Paper & Cardboard Recycle:** Cardboard & mixed paper products tied into bundles or packed in paper grocery bags or small cardboard boxes.

**Yard waste:** Cut and tied branches or shrubs, small logs, leaves, grass clippings, and garden debris contained in paper yard waste bags, garbage cans marked "yard waste," or small cardboard boxes. 50 lb. limit.

## What does the City collect?

The City provides separate collections of refuse contained in the wheeled refuse carts, bulk trash items, appliances, yard waste and recyclables on the regular collection day each week.

## What is acceptable Bulk Trash?

Large trash items that won't fit in the refuse cart such as furniture, couches, chairs, dressers, mattresses, bookcases, doors, windows, carpet (taped or tied in 4' rolls), bicycles, televisions, contained rocks, dirt and sod, and bundled or contained construction debris from work done by the resident. A 50 lb. weight limit applies for containers, bags and bundles.

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**Green Tip!** Home Composting is a great way to reduce yard waste and provide rich soil for your garden. Contact the Division of Refuse and Recycling.

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## How should I handle construction debris?

Cut lumber into 4' lengths and tie securely into manageable bundles. Hammer nails over for safety. Cut plywood into 4'x4' sections and stack neatly. Contain loose debris in strong plastic bags or garbage cans. Break plasterboard into pieces and contain as loose debris. A 50 lb. weight limit applies.

## What about fall leaves?

In the fall, rake leaves to the tree lawn for collection. There are three sweeps of each street beginning in November and ending in December. Keep leaves out of the street and storm inlets.

## What should I do with medical syringes?

Place needles and syringes in a Sharps container or use a rigid, leak-proof, puncture-resistant container with a tight fitting lid (like a detergent or bleach bottle). Mark container "Sharps" and place inside refuse bins. Call for details.

## Who is responsible when tenants do something wrong?

Property owners are responsible for making sure their tenants comply with Division of Refuse Rules and Regulations.

## What if I have more trash than will fit in the cart?

Most households' garbage and trash will fit easily in the cart provided. Bulk trash can be placed on the curb for collection 3' away from refuse cart.

## Can I get an extra cart?

Yes, though a fee will be charged for the extra cart.

## What if my cart is damaged or stolen?

The carts are registered by serial number to a specific address and come with a 10-year manufacturer's warranty against defects. The homeowner is responsible for each cart. If the cart is damaged by the garbage truck or stolen it will be replaced free of charge. Contact the Division of Refuse and Recycling immediately at 216.252.4322 for replacement details.

## What if I am physically unable to move the new cart to the curb and do not have anyone to assist me?

Contact the Refuse and Recycling Division to arrange special collection.

## What if it snows?

Keep trash carts and recycling unburied from snow banks, clear of ice, and accessible to collectors. Place carts in a cleared driveway apron or shovel a shelf into the snow bank, no higher than 6" from the ground for stability & safe lifting. Or, set the cart out the following week once the weather improves.



# Questions? (continued)



## What if I live on a small street and the trucks won't fit?

Some Lakewood streets present extra challenges. The Refuse and Recycling Division will address these areas on an individual basis and may alter the means of collection on those streets.

## What should I do with my old garbage cans?

They can be stored away and used on heavy trash weeks. They can also be converted into compost bins or rain barrels. Unneeded cans should be recycled.

## Is there anything the City does not collect from the curb?

The City does not collect tires, motor oil, liquids, paint, contractor debris, or loose materials that are not packaged or contained properly. Contact the Division of Refuse and Recycling for disposal information.

## What if I have more questions?

Contact the Division of Refuse and Recycling at 216.252.4322 or view the web site at [OneLakewood.com](http://OneLakewood.com)

## What about parked cars?

The automated truck arm has a reach of 10'. They can reach straight past a parked car to grab and empty the container. Cars parked too close to or directly in front of the container will inhibit collection.

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**Green Tip!** Donate clothing and household items that are in good condition to charities such as Planet Aid, Easter Seals, Goodwill, Salvation Army, Purple Heart and Amvets. Many drop boxes are located throughout Lakewood and some of these organizations even pick up items at your doorstep.

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# Where?

## Location

12920 Berea Road  
Lakewood, Ohio 44111

## Phone

216.252.4322

## Winter Hours

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday–Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Saturday

## Summer Hours

(during daylight saving time)  
7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday–Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Saturday

Personal vehicles only after 3:00 p.m.  
weekdays and Saturdays.

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## Drop-Off Facility

The Division of Refuse and Recycling provides a drop-off facility to Lakewood residents and businesses for the disposal of refuse, recyclables, yard waste, construction debris and hazardous waste materials. Identification showing proof of residence and vehicle registration is required. Charges may apply for refuse not brought in the property owner's or resident's personal vehicle.

The following recyclable materials are accepted: aluminum cans, anti-freeze, appliances & recyclable metals, batteries, blue bag mixed recycle, mixed paper recycle, cardboard, motor oil, yard waste, clean & useable clothing.

A paper shredding service for Lakewood residents and businesses is provided for confidential documents (remove envelopes, folders, etc.).

In cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, the facility offers year-round drop-off of computers, fluorescent tubes, household hazardous waste, and tires (off the rim) to Lakewood residents.



Division of Refuse and Recycling  
12920 Berea Road  
Lakewood, Ohio 44111

OneLakewood.com  
216.252.4322

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