

REGULATION FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY RESIDENTIAL TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION (2025)

OVERVIEW

Private collectors, authorized and supervised by Baltimore County Government, provide once a week trash and recycling collection to all single-family homes and town homes located within Baltimore County boundaries on County and State maintained roads, County designated alleys, and other areas as determined by the housing development forms. The County, at its discretion, may provide second weekly trash collections in specified areas determined by the County. Certain areas receive a separate yard material collection every other week during a designated portion of the year. See "Yard Materials Collections" section of this regulation for details.

The County reserves the right to modify residents' collection schedules. New housing developments can apply for Trash/Recycling services by calling 410-887-2000.

The County does not provide trash or recycling collection to commercial or industrial establishments. This includes, but is not limited to: factories, offices, retail centers, and stores (except when building or space in building is leased from the County and collection is specified in the lease agreement).

The County may, at its discretion, provide once a week trash and recycling collection to certain multi-family properties within County boundaries. Any trash and/or recycling collection services above and beyond this must be arranged for by and between the property manager/owner and the collector(s), at no cost to the County. The County may also provide, at its discretion, once per week trash and recycling collection to certain non-profit charities and institutions that are located within County boundaries. Any trash and/or recycling collection services above and beyond this must be arranged for by and between the non-profit charities/institutions and collector(s), at no cost to the County.

If the County provides collection, the entity (resident, institution, multi-family unit, charity, etc.) must also participate in single stream recycling, unless otherwise designated by County.

In addition to weekly curbside collection, County residents may themselves deliver allowable materials from their residences to one of the three County drop-off facilities at no charge.

Households are limited to no more than 10 visits in a calendar year. Residents will be required to show proof of residency. Further information on acceptable identification can be found on the County website (<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste>).

AUTHORIZED COLLECTION

Baltimore County Code §13-4-204 specifies that, subject to the exceptions listed below, collection of trash and/or recyclables from homes in the County is prohibited without a written permit from the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections. County Code §13-4-204 exempts the following from this permit requirement:

- A private resident transporting for approved disposal or processing solid waste collected at the place of residence;
- A private home improvement contractor; or
- Other persons whose primary business is not solid waste collection and transport.

Baltimore County Code §17-1-112 prohibits scavenging of recyclables set out at pickup locations serviced by an authorized County collector.

COLLECTION HOLIDAYS

Each year there are seven collection holidays (on dates, actual or observed, as determined by the County) when no trash, recycling, or yard materials collections occur:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day

- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

A slide schedule was instituted for collection holidays effective January 1, 2022. Trash, recycling, and/or yard materials collections not provided due to a holiday will occur on the day immediately after the holiday. All collection days for the rest of the week following a holiday will slide forward one day, with Friday's collections occurring on Saturday. If a holiday falls on a Saturday, any normally scheduled collections will be cancelled on that date. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday will be observed on Monday, and collections for the rest of that week will follow the slide schedule.

For residences with twice per week trash collection, the first trash collection during a holiday week will follow the slide schedule, and the second trash collection of the week will not occur.

OTHER INTERRUPTIONS OR ALTERATIONS IN COLLECTION SERVICE

The Bureau of Solid Waste Management may cancel, suspend, or alter scheduled collections for several reasons including, but not limited to, inclement weather and operational problems, such as an obstruction on a collection route (e.g., parked vehicles in an alley) or maintenance on County facilities. Residents should report any vehicles blocking an alley to Baltimore County Police at 410-887-2222.

If a scheduled pickup is cancelled, the collection will generally be made up the next day following the slide schedule rules listed under "Collection Holidays". For residences with twice per week trash collection, trash may be picked up on the next scheduled collection day instead of the day after cancellation.

The Bureau of Solid Waste may make exceptions to the general rules for make-up collections as appropriate. The Bureau of Solid Waste may also alter the location for collections (e.g., from

alley to front curb), temporarily or permanently, as necessary. Residents will be properly notified of any changes to collection points.

During periods of inclement weather, residents are advised to pay close attention to the media, check the County's website (www.baltimorecountymd.gov) or call the Bureau's 24-hour message system (410-887-2000).

DEFINITION OF "TRASH"

"Trash" generally consists of all materials generated in Baltimore County residences that have been set out for collection as consistent with this regulation. However, for purposes of promoting health, safety, and efficiency, the Bureau is the final arbiter of whether materials qualify as trash eligible for collection. Hazardous materials cannot be set out with regular trash. Recyclable materials must be set out for recycling collection. Residents should make every effort to divert materials when recycling or re-use options are available.

TRASH MATERIALS NOT COLLECTED

Certain materials are not picked up by trash collectors for safety or environmental reasons. A full list can be found on the County's website.

(<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste/bulk-items>).

For information concerning proper recycling and/or disposal of these materials, residents should contact the Bureau at 410-887-2000 or see the applicable regulations for the residents' drop-off centers located at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill, Central Acceptance Facility, and the Western Acceptance Facility. Residents may also visit the County's Accepted Materials directory on the County web page.

Certain potentially hazardous materials are not collected curbside. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Acids
- Ammunition and other explosives
- Caustics
- Firearms
- Liquid Paint Products
- Other liquids (e.g., cooking oil)
- Petroleum products including drained oil
- Poisons

For information concerning proper recycling/disposal of these materials, residents should contact the County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability at 410- 887-3745.

TRASH CONTAINER SPECIFICATIONS

For the storage of household trash, a watertight, rodent resistant, sturdy outdoor container with handles must be utilized. County Code §13-4-201 requires trash to be placed in a container with a tight-fitting lid for collection. Lids must fit snugly.

Trash must be set out in a rodent-resistant, watertight container with a tight-fitting lid in order for the material to be collected. Individual, non-containerized bags will not be collected. When set out for collection inside of an approved receptacle, individual bags cannot weigh more than 30 pounds. If the County provides a residence with a Baltimore County branded trash container the container must be used.

Trash must not be placed in bags with a color associated with medical or hazardous wastes (red, pink, or yellow). Failure to follow these specifications could result in non-collection. Individual bags must not exceed 30 pounds and must be securely tied at the top to prevent spills. For multi-family housing units, alternate containers (e.g., dumpsters) may be acceptable based upon approval by the County and the authorized trash collector.

TRASH CONTAINER PLACEMENT

Trash containers must be placed at the location designated by the County for collection.

In areas where the County has designated the alley as the collection pick-up location, residents must place their containers in accordance with the following rules:

- If there is no fence between the resident's lot and the alley, containers must be placed within ten (10) feet of the alley.
- If there is a fence between the resident's lot and the alley, containers must be placed outside of the fence or in an open gateway.
- If the lot includes a terrace adjacent to the alley, containers must be placed at the bottom step.

Due to varying pickup times, trash should be set out the evening prior to the scheduled collection day to ensure collection. However, trash setouts prior to 6 p.m. the day before collection are prohibited.

TRASH SET-OUTS REQUIRING SPECIAL PREPARATION

Glass items (e.g., mirrors, windowpanes, broken glass). Items must be completely and securely wrapped in paper to prevent protruding edges and loose pieces. The word "Glass" must be prominently written on each package.

Animal waste must be put in a plastic bag, or double bagged, before being placed in a trash container for collection.

SPILLS

Residents who place materials out for collection in violation of any applicable law or regulation, which results in spillage, are responsible for cleanup.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

- Materials acceptable for recycling collection include, but are not limited to:
- Cardboard boxes (must be flattened)
- Paperboard boxes (such as cereal and shoe boxes)
- Glass jars and bottles (any color)
- Plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs
- Milk and juice cartons (including juice boxes)
- Aluminum and steel food and beverage cans
- Rigid plastics (such as buckets, flowerpots, etc.)
- Newspapers (glossy inserts are acceptable)
- Magazines
- Writing and computer paper
- Mail (plastic windows are acceptable)
- Aluminum foil and pie tins

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR RECYCLING

Certain materials are not picked up by recycling collectors including, but not limited to:

- Paper or cardboard covered by wax, plastic or food
- Batteries
- Dishes and ceramics, glassware
- Window glass
- Light bulbs
- Mirrors
- Styrofoam® (polystyrene), plastic film, plastic bags or wrap
- Motor oil and antifreeze bottles
- Pots, pans, and scrap metal
- Electronics with recyclable components

A full and accurate list of materials can be found on Baltimore County's website.

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste/hhw/accepted-materials>.

Residents are encouraged to utilize the county's website when determining the recyclability of certain items. Residences or multifamily units who receive Trash collection must also participate in Recycling collection.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Residents may mix all types of acceptable recyclables when setting items out for collection. Recyclables may be set out for collection in sturdy outdoor containers, as long as they are clearly marked for recycling (e.g., marked with an "X" or "RECYCLE"). If Baltimore County provides branded, Baltimore County recycling receptacles, these must be used for setout.

Acceptable items may also be set out in cardboard boxes. Acceptable mixed paper (including cardboard) may be set out in paper bags or bundles tied with non-plastic string. Boxes, paper bags, and/or bundles set out on recycling collection days will be collected along with the items inside them. The maximum weight for any of these setouts is 30 pounds. Recyclables must not be set out for collection in plastic bags.

Recyclables set out for collection must be placed at the County designated collection point. To ensure collection, recyclables should be set out the evening prior to collection. Failure to comply with these regulations could result in non-collection and/or injury to a collection worker. For multi-family housing units, alternate container specifications and placements (e.g., dumpsters) may be acceptable based upon approval by the County and the authorized recycling collector.

YARD MATERIALS COLLECTIONS

Yard Materials are defined as grass, leaves, vines, twigs, and shrubbery trimmings, as well as branches and limbs. In certain areas and during time periods the County designates, yard materials will be picked up in a separate collection, independent from trash and recycling.

Residents in single-family homes and town homes will be provided with collection schedules informing them when and how yard materials will be collected.

Yard materials must be set out for pick-up the evening before the assigned collection day. Yard materials will not be collected as trash in non-collection areas or outside of the designated yard waste collection time period. Acceptable materials must be set out in heavy duty (2-ply) paper lawn and leaf bags that do not weigh over 30 pounds, or in bundles that do not weigh over 30 pounds. Yard materials set out in plastic bags or in trash or recycling containers will not be accepted.

Up to 20 bags will be accepted on a given yard collection day. Branches and limbs cannot be more than 3 inches in diameter, 3 feet in length, and must be tied together with non-plastic string. Vines, twigs, and shrubbery trimmings must be bagged or bundled as specified above. Yard materials must not be mixed with poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, giant hogweed, lumber, dirt or other unacceptable waste as defined by the County.

In some areas of the County, there may be no scheduled yard collection day. Yard Waste is a recyclable material and may not be set out with trash. Residents are encouraged to use the Resident Dropoff Centers to properly dispose of Yard Waste material that is not collected by the County.

BULK ITEMS

Each single-family home and townhome located within the County boundaries will receive at least one bulk collection per year, with a limit of three bulk items per collection. For a full list of acceptable items for Bulk Collection, please visit Baltimore County's website.

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste>

Acceptable bulk items include, but are not limited to:

- Residential appliances (e.g., washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, water heaters)
- Household furniture (e.g., tables, chairs, sofas, entertainment centers, mattresses)

- Miscellaneous household items (e.g., mops, brooms, sewing machines, ping pong tables)
- Building materials (e.g., sinks, toilets, bathtubs, carpets)
- Electronics (e.g., televisions, monitors, computers, printers, copiers).
- No items over 8 feet in length will be accepted in the County's residential bulk collection program.
- Certain bulk items require special preparation for collection. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Awnings must be broken down
 - Clothesline poles and clothes trees must be free of concrete
 - Carpets and linoleum must be rolled and tied
 - Metal sheds and playhouses must be broken down and bundled
 - Lawn mowers must have the gas tanks and wheels removed
 - Swing sets, play sets, and jungle gyms must be metal only and dismantled
 - Any items that contain batteries must have the batteries removed. Batteries may be taken to any County drop-off center for recycling but cannot be set out for regular bulk collection.

Some items will not be accepted for collection in the County's residential bulk collection program. These include:

- Pianos
- Boats
- Auto parts
- Fuel and oil tanks
- Mirrors and plate glass
- Stumps and logs
- Tires
- Concrete
- Liquids or any items containing liquids
- Any large item that is not disassembled

- Municipal solid waste that is part of the County's normal trash/recycling/yard curbside collection program

In addition to the bulk collection program, residents may deliver bulk items from their residences themselves to one of the three County drop-off facilities (utilizing one of their 10 free annual visits), or they may contact a private bulk collector and negotiate a fee for removal. Contact the Bureau at 410-887-2000 for more information.

ORGANICS/FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

The County may, at its discretion, offer collection services for organic/food scrap waste generated by Baltimore County residences. Participating residences will receive notification from the County of the addition of this service and will be directed to the Baltimore County website for further information. Materials must be set out in the designated County container. The County may require the use of compostable bags for setout. Residents who live in single-family homes and town homes must set out their organic material at the same location where they would normally place trash and recycling for collection.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Christmas trees are collected for recycling on a schedule set by the County. Christmas trees set out after the designated collection period may not be collected.

Christmas trees set out for collection must be bare (e.g., no trees in plastic bags or wrapped in plastic, no decorations, no lights, and no tree stands). Residents who live in single-family homes and town homes must set out their Christmas trees at the same location where they would normally place trash and recycling for collection. Residents who live in an apartment or condominium with front-end, dumpster collection will not receive Christmas tree collection services.

ALTERATIONS TO REGULATION

The Bureau of Solid Waste Management may add to, delete from, or revise this regulation as deemed appropriate.

QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions regarding these regulations may be directed to the Bureau at 410-887-2000 or via email solidwaste@baltimorecountymd.gov. Additional information is also available on the web: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste>

AUTHORITY

County Code §13-4-203 authorizes the Department of Public Works and Transportation to adopt regulations for solid waste collection, including but not limited to:

- Quantity of solid waste
- Type of containers
- Size of bundles
- Placement of solid waste
- Types of solid waste materials

County Code §13-4-213 further authorizes the County to adopt regulations to promote recycling of solid waste.

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