



**REGULATION
FOR
BALTIMORE COUNTY RESIDENTIAL TRASH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION
("Single Stream" Recycling Collection Version)
(Adopted in accordance with Baltimore County Bill 88-90)
(August, 2022)**

OVERVIEW

The Maryland Recycling Act of 1988 requires that Baltimore County attain at least a 20% recycling rate each year through 2014, and Maryland legislation enacted in 2012 requires that Baltimore County attain at least a 35% recycling rate each year starting in 2015. Baltimore County has set a voluntary recycling rate goal of 45% each year starting in 2015. In addition, the State has set a voluntary statewide recycling goal of 55% by 2020 and a voluntary statewide waste diversion goal of 60% by 2020. The County's annual waste diversion rate equals its recycling rate plus a credit of up to 5% for engaging in certain waste prevention activities. Maximizing waste diversion will extend the life of the County's only landfill, the Eastern Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility in the White Marsh area.

Private collectors, authorized and supervised by Baltimore County Government, provide once a week trash, once a week 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 "Application" and "Request for Collection" forms. Baltimore County also provides second weekly trash collections in specified areas as determined by the County.

Recycling collection of mixed paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, and glass occurs concurrently each week (commonly referred to as "single stream" recycling collection). In addition, certain areas receive a separate yard materials recycling collection every other week



during a designated portion of the year. “Yard Materials” refers to grass, leaves, vines, twigs, and shrubbery trimmings, as well as branches and limbs. See “Yard Materials Collections” section of this regulation for details.

Baltimore County may, at its sole discretion, provide once per week trash, once per week recycling collection to certain multi-family properties within Baltimore 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 collector(s), at no cost to the County. Baltimore County may also provide, in its sole discretion, once per week trash, once per week recycling collection to certain non-profit charities and institutions that are located within Baltimore 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.

New Housing Developments can apply for Trash / Recycling service by completing an “Application” and “Request for Collection” forms. In consideration of cost-effectiveness, customer service, or logistics, Baltimore County reserves the right to modify residents’ collection schedules.

Baltimore County does not provide trash or recycling collection to commercial or industrial establishments, including but 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).

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 be 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:

1. A private resident transporting for approved disposal or processing solid waste collected at the place of residence;
2. A private home improvement contractor; or
3. 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 a pickup location serviced by an authorized County collector.

COLLECTION HOLIDAYS

Each year there are six 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, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. No other holidays cause interruptions in collection service.

Beginning January 1, 2022, a "slide" schedule will be instituted for the collection holidays listed above. Trash, recycling, and/or yard materials collection not provided due to a holiday will occur on the day immediately following 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, and there will be no "slide" day designated. 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 dwelling units on a twice per week trash collection schedule, the first trash collection during a holiday week will follow the "slide" rules above, and the second trash collection of the week will not occur.



OTHER INTERRUPTIONS OR ALTERATIONS IN COLLECTION SERVICE

The Bureau may cancel, suspend, or otherwise alter regular trash and/or recycling collections for reasons including, but not limited to, inclement weather and operational problems, such as an obstruction in a collection route (e.g., parked vehicles in an alley). Residents are reminded that County Code §18-2-202 requires that vehicles parked in alleys must allow at least 12 feet clearance for other vehicles, including trash/recycling trucks. Residents are further reminded that they should report any vehicles blocking an alley to the Police at 410-887-2222.

If a scheduled collection is cancelled due to inclement weather or another problem listed above, that collection will generally be made up the next day, following the “slide” schedule rules listed under “Collection Holidays.” For dwelling units on a twice per week trash collection, trash collections may be made up the next scheduled trash collection day instead.

The Bureau of Solid Waste Management may make exceptions to the general rules for make-up collections as appropriate to the circumstances. The Bureau may also alter the location for collections (e.g., from alley to front curb), temporarily or permanently, as appropriate.

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

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Any additional service beyond those noted in this regulation must be a private arrangement and separate expense between the resident/owner/management company and the vendor of their choice. These additional services are considered commercial transactions.



DEFINITION OF "TRASH" (See Also – MATERIALS NOT COLLECTED / BULK

ITEMS)

In general, "trash" consists of all materials generated in Baltimore County residences that have been set out for collection as trash consistent with this regulation. However, for purposes of promoting health, safety, and efficiency, the Bureau of Solid Waste Management is the final arbiter of whether materials qualify as trash eligible for collection.

MATERIALS NOT COLLECTED

Certain materials, though generally non-hazardous, are not collected by the trash collector. These materials include, but are not limited to, ashes, coals, construction and/or demolition materials, dead animals, large tree branches, sod, stone, stumps, tires, vehicle parts, and electronics (e.g. computers, monitors, etc.). For information concerning proper recycling and/or disposal of these materials, residents should contact the Baltimore County Bureau of Solid Waste Management at 410-887-2000 and/or see the applicable regulations for the residents' drop-off centers located at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility, Central Acceptance Facility, and the Western Acceptance Facility.

Certain other potentially hazardous materials are also not collected from Baltimore County residences. These materials include, but are not limited to:

- Acids;
- Ammunition and other explosives;
- Caustics;
- Firearms;
- Liquid Paint Products;
- Other liquids (e.g. cooking oil);



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- Petroleum products (including drained oil); and
 - Poisons.

For information concerning proper recycling and/or disposal of these materials, residents should contact the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability at 410-887-3745 and/or see the applicable regulations for the residents' drop-off centers located at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility, Central Acceptance Facility, and the Western Acceptance Facility.

BULK ITEMS

On January 1, 2022, Baltimore County instituted a residential collection program for bulk items; the County will provide advance information to residents regarding the scheduling of these bulk collections. Each single-family home and town home located within Baltimore County boundaries will receive at least one (1) bulk collection per year, with a limit of three (3) bulk items per collection.

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), and electronics (e.g., televisions, monitors, computers, printers, copiers).

Certain bulk materials require special preparation for collection. 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; and swing sets, play sets, and jungle gyms must be metal only and dismantled. No items over 8 feet in length will be accepted in the County's residential bulk collection program.



Some items will not be accepted for collection in the County's residential bulk collection program. These include pianos; boats; auto parts; pool tables; cast iron or concrete items; compressed gas tanks (or any pressure vessels); drums, fuel, and oil tanks; mirrors and plate glass; stumps and logs; tires; liquids or any items containing liquids; any large item that is not disassembled; and municipal solid waste that is part of the County's normal residential curbside collection program (for trash, recycling, and yard materials). Any bulk items that contain rechargeable batteries must have the batteries removed before collection. If batteries are not removed, these items will be rejected by the collector. Rechargeable batteries may be taken to any Baltimore County Drop-Off center for recycling.

In addition to the residential bulk collection program, residents may deliver bulk items from their residences themselves to one of the three Baltimore County drop-off facilities (Eastern Sanitary Landfill Solid Waste Management Facility, Central Acceptance Facility, and Western Acceptance Facility) at no charge (up to six trips per year), or they may contact a private bulk item collector and negotiate a fee for removal. Some resident-delivered loads may require Bureau preauthorization for disposal—contact the Bureau for more information.

TRASH CONTAINER SPECIFICATIONS

A watertight, rodent resistant, sturdy outdoor container equipped with handles and a tight fitting cover is required for storage of household trash. Lids must fit snugly, but must not be secured or fastened to the container with rope, wire, chains, springs, or by any other means when the container is set out for collection.

Trash containers for collection are limited to a maximum filled weight of 45 pounds and a maximum capacity of 45 gallons. When cart lifting devices/mechanical tippers are in use on the trucks providing County collection, residents may use trash cans as large as 96 gallons in capacity, if the trash can is compatible with the universal-designed mechanical tipper device.



Residents must remove containers from pull carts. Trash must not be placed in bags or containers with a color associated with medical or hazardous wastes (red, pink, or yellow).

Failure to comply with the above specifications could result in non-collection and/or injury to a collection worker.

County Code §13-4-201 requires trash to be placed in a container with a tight fitting lid for storage. If a resident chooses to place household trash at the curb in a plastic bag, instead of a container, it may be collected if:

1. The filled weight does not exceed 30 pounds (because of difficulty in handling).
2. The bag is thick and sturdy enough to support 30 pounds of refuse without tearing, and is securely tied at the top to prevent spillage.

In areas determined by the County to have rodent and/or animal infestations, the County may require household trash be placed at the curb in a watertight, rodent resistant, sturdy outdoor container equipped with handles and a tight fitting cover in lieu of plastic bags.

For multi-family housing units, including apartments, alternate container specifications (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 Baltimore County for collection. In areas where the County has designated the curb as the location for collection, residents must place their containers at the curb in front of the property where they live unless, as in the case of some townhouses and condominiums, the County designates a station or central pick-up point.

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



1. If there is no fence between the resident's lot and the alley, containers must be placed within five (5) feet of the alley.
2. 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.
3. If the lot includes a terrace adjacent to the alley, containers must be placed at the bottom step.

Due to varying pickup times, to ensure collection, trash should be set out the evening prior to the scheduled collection day. However, to promote residential appearances, and deter rodents, trash set-outs prior to 6 p.m. the evening before collection are prohibited.

TRASH SET-OUTS REQUIRING SPECIAL PREPARATION

1. Glass items, including, but not limited to, mirrors, windowpanes, and broken glass, 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.
2. Animal waste must be wrapped in paper and put in a plastic bag, or double-bagged, before being placed in a trash container for collection.
3. Paint – NO LIQUID PAINT. Must be dried paint (solidified, paint cans open).
4. Trash containers will be collected as trash if a note is attached requesting this.

SPILLS

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

YARD MATERIALS COLLECTIONS

Yard Materials are defined as grass, leaves, vines, twigs, and shrubbery trimmings, as well as branches and limbs. The best place for residents to deal with yard materials is at home,



not by setting them out for collection. Grasscycling (cutting grass high and letting it lie), leafcycling (mulching leaves with a lawn mower and leaving them on the lawn), and home composting (of grass and leaves) directly benefit residents through enriched lawns and gardens. These practices also reduce pollution and costs associated with collection and processing. Residents may contact the Bureau of Solid Waste Management at 410-887-2000 for further information.

In certain areas and during such time periods as the County may designate, yard materials will be picked up in a separate collection, independent from trash and single stream recycling. Residents in single-family homes and town homes will be provided with collection schedules and information sufficient for them to know when and how yard materials will be collected.

Separate collection of yard materials permits the materials to be recycled into compost or mulch, ultimately to be made available to County residents and agencies. In the designated areas and times of year when separate, yard materials-only collection is scheduled, yard materials must be set out for pick-up on assigned yard material days—yard materials will not be collected as trash on scheduled trash collection days. For these separate yard material collections, grass and leaves must be set out in heavy duty (2-ply) paper lawn and leaf bags with a maximum filled weight of 30 pounds; plastic bags will not be accepted. Up to 20 bags will be accepted on a given yard material collection day. Yard materials must not be set out in trash or recycling containers. Branches and limbs must be no larger than 3 inches in diameter, no longer than 3 feet, and tied with non-plastic string in bundles weighing no more than 45 pounds. 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, food scraps or other unacceptable waste as defined by the County.



In some areas of the County, there may be no separate scheduled yard materials collection day. In these areas, yard materials must not be set out in trash or recycling containers. Branches and limbs must be no larger than 3 inches in diameter, no longer than 3 feet, and tied in bundles weighing no more than 45 pounds. Vines, twigs, and shrubbery trimmings must be bagged or bundled as specified above.

In all cases, yard materials must be placed out in compliance with all local rules and regulations. Bags and bundles of yard materials must be placed where trash is regularly collected, and yard materials will not be collected if loose in the streets. Bags of yard materials must not be of a color associated with medical or hazardous wastes (red, pink or yellow). Yard materials must not block the road, alley, sidewalk, gutter, or storm drain inlets, and must not create a safety hazard in any way.

To ensure collection due to varying pickup times, yard materials should be set out the evening before the scheduled collection day. However, to promote residential appearances, yard material set-outs prior to 6 p.m. the evening before collection are prohibited.

MIXED PAPER AND CARDBOARD ACCEPTABLE FOR RECYCLING

COLLECTIONS

Mixed paper and cardboard acceptable for recycling collections includes newspapers (glossy inserts are acceptable), magazines, phone books, books, catalogs, writing and computer paper, mail (plastic windows are acceptable), paperboard boxes (such as cereal and shoe boxes), milk and juice cartons, juice boxes, and cardboard boxes (flattened). Paper or cardboard covered by wax, plastic or food is not acceptable. Acceptable and non-acceptable types of mixed paper may be modified by the County based upon the strength of commodity markets, the state of sorting technology, etc.



PLASTIC, METAL, AND GLASS ACCEPTABLE FOR RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Plastic, metal, and glass acceptable for recycling collections include glass jars and bottles (any color); aluminum and steel food and beverage cans; aluminum foil and pie tins; plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs; and rigid plastics (such as buckets, flowerpots, etc.). Acceptable and non-acceptable plastic, metal, and glass items may be modified by the County based upon the strength of commodity markets, the state of sorting technology, etc.

Items not acceptable for recycling collections include, but are not limited to, dishes and ceramics, drinking glasses, window glass, light bulbs, mirrors, Corningware™ or Pyrex®, Styrofoam® (polystyrene), plastic film, plastic bags or wrap, motor oil and antifreeze bottles, pots, pans, and scrap metal.

MIXED PAPER, CARDBOARD, PLASTIC, METAL, AND GLASS RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Residents may mix together all types of acceptable recyclable mixed paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, and glass when these items are set out for recycling collection (commonly referred to as “single stream” recycling collection), as long as the items are set out consistent with this regulation. All acceptable types of recyclable paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, and glass may be set out for recycling collection in sturdy outdoor containers, as long as they are clearly designated for recycling (e.g., marked with an “X” or “RECYCLE”) and limited to a maximum filled weight of 45 pounds and a maximum capacity of 45 gallons. If the container has a lid, the lid must not be secured or fastened to the container with rope, wire, chains, springs, or by any other means when the container is set out for collection. When cart lifting devices/mechanical tippers are in use on the trucks providing County collection, residents may use recycling containers as large as 96 gallons in capacity, if the container is compatible with the universal-designed mechanical tipper device.



In addition, acceptable mixed paper (including cardboard), plastic, metal, and glass items may be set out in small cardboard boxes. Furthermore, 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 types of set-outs is 30 pounds (lower weight limit than for sturdy outdoor containers due to greater difficulty handling boxed, bagged, and bundled materials, especially when they are wet).

Recyclables must not be set out for recycling collection in plastic bags of any type or color (ban on plastic bags needed to prevent processing complications at the “single stream” recycling sorting facility). Recyclables must not be set out for recycling collection in any container, paper bag, cardboard box, or bundle that has a color associated with medical or hazardous wastes (red, pink, or yellow).

Recyclables set out for recycling collection must be placed where trash is regularly collected. To ensure collection due to varying pickup times, recyclables should be set out the evening prior to collection. However, to promote residential appearances, recycling set-outs prior to 6 p.m. the evening before collection are prohibited.

Failure to comply with the above specifications could result in non-collection and/or injury to a collection worker.

For multi-family housing units, including apartments, alternate container specifications and placements (e.g., dumpsters) may be acceptable based upon approval by the County and the authorized recycling collector.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Christmas trees may also be collected for recycling (into compost and/or mulch) on a schedule and in accordance with procedures as announced by Baltimore County. Christmas trees



set out for collection must be bare (e.g., no trees in plastic bags or wrapped in plastic, no decorations, and no tree stands).

To participate in the Christmas tree recycling collection program, 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. Christmas trees set out after the designated recycling collection period may be collected and disposed of as trash.

Residents who live in an apartment or condominium need to follow their property managers' instructions on Christmas tree collection.

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 this regulation may be directed to the Bureau of Solid Waste Management at 410-887-2000 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday or via email (solidwaste@baltimorecountymd.gov). Additional information is also available on the web: http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/solid_waste/index.html

AUTHORITY

County Code §13-4-203 authorizes the Department of Public Works 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 and types of solid waste materials.

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



Baltimore County Government
Department of Public Works & Transportation
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Approved: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Rodricks", is written over a horizontal line.

Nicholas Rodricks, Chief, Bureau of Solid Waste Management
Department of Public Works and Transportation