



City of Fairfax

Solid Waste Services Guide

2023

The City of Fairfax is committed to providing excellent solid waste management services and aims to minimize the amount of waste being sent to the landfill through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery.

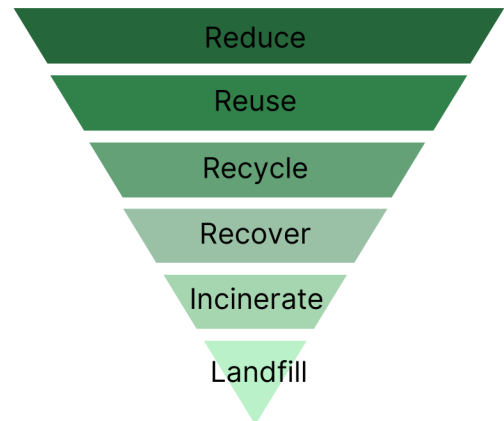
WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY

Source reduction, also known as waste prevention, reduces waste at the source, and is the most environmentally preferred method of waste management. Source reduction can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save natural resources, conserve energy, reduce pollution, and protect the environment.

Most Preferred



Least Preferred



How can you make a difference?

REDUCE

- Use reusable bags when shopping
- Purchase items in bulk or in large containers instead of single serving packages
- Bring reusable cups, bottles, and mugs for take-out beverages, or beverages on the go
- Switch to paperless options for billings, receipts, and more
- Subscribe to online newspapers
- Remove yourself from mailing lists to avoid excess junk mail

REUSE, REPAIR & REPURPOSE

- Buy items from thrift stores, flea markets, or online reuse sites
- Donate unwanted clothes, books, furniture, and household items to local charities
- Reuse materials for crafts, school projects, or other purposes
- Repair or repurpose broken items to avoid creating more waste
- Compost food scraps and organic materials in your backyard or at the city's composting center (see page 6)

Weekly Curbside Collection Services

The City of Fairfax provides curbside collection of refuse (trash), recycling, brush, yard waste, loose leaves (seasonally), large items, and debris for residents living in single family homes, duplexes, and townhouses on your designated collection day (except for holidays).

Residents must place containers and other items on the curb no later than 7 a.m. on collection day. Containers may be set out no earlier than dusk the evening prior to collection day and must be removed from the street by 8 p.m. on collection day.



When placing your items on the curb, do not block fire hydrants, utility access, storm drains, or sidewalks.

BACK DOOR COLLECTION SERVICE

Need assistance? The city provides special back door collection service of trash and recycling for older adults or people with disabilities. Apply for the backdoor collection service online at fairfaxva.gov/backdoorcollection. For more information or assistance, email RefuseRecycling@fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7837. Certain restrictions apply.

REFUSE (TRASH)



Routine household trash collection is provided for materials resulting from normal residential use and routine home maintenance. Place trash in containers (up to 65 gallons) or plastic bags. See below list of acceptable items:

ACCEPTED

- **Normal household trash:** up to 60 pounds
- **Animal waste, diapers:** bag to reduce odors
- **Building material:** small amounts of debris, not from a contractor, must be placed in trash cans weighing no more than 60 pounds
- **Medical needles & sharps:** place in a thick plastic container with screw-on cap labeled SHARPS
- **Sawdust, cold ashes, loose packaging material:** secure in plastic bags, and ashes make sure ashes are cold to prevent fires

PROHIBITED

- **Hot ashes**
- **Brush, yard waste, and leaves:** see page 3
- **Recyclables:** see page 4
- **Hazardous waste:** see page 7
- **Solid waste from any work done by contractors**

Weekly Curbside Collection Services

BRUSH & STUMPS

Brush includes limbs, branches, and tree trunks that are maximum 6 feet long. Large piles of brush may be placed on the curb at any time. Place piles of brush at the curb in an open area accessible to the crane truck. Do not place piles under power lines or trees, or close to walls, or vehicles.



YARD WASTE

Yard waste includes cut grass, plant and shrub clippings, twigs, limbs, and garden vegetation from general yard maintenance. Yard waste must be placed in paper bags or containers at the curb. Loose yard waste in the street will clog storm drains. The city does not collect loose piles of yard waste from the street.



The use of plastic bags for yard waste collection is prohibited. Residents must use reusable containers, paper yard waste bags, or bundle their waste.

LEAVES

In April, November and December, the city collects leaves loose at the curb by vacuum suction truck. Check fairfaxva.gov/recycling for exact dates. During leaf season, leaves must be raked or placed at the curb or street edge. At all other times of the year, leaves must be disposed of as Yard Waste (see instructions above). **Leaves in bags or trash cans will NOT be collected during leaf season.**



LARGE ITEMS & APPLIANCES

Materials and household appliances too large to fit in a waste container (furniture, stoves, water heaters, car parts, storm doors etc.) can be placed behind the curb no more than 24 hours before collection day. Ensure items are placed away from parked vehicles, and low-hanging limbs and wires. Remove doors from appliances for safety.



DEBRIS

Debris collection includes large amounts of bulky material such as drywall, asphalt shingles, brick, metal, concrete, plate glass, and lumber. Place large amounts of debris in separate piles at the curb. Small amounts of debris must be placed in waste cans weighing no more than 60 pounds.

Contractor waste is NOT collected by the city.





Residential Recycling Guide

Include only these items in your recycling bin:

PAPER



- Paper bags
- Newspaper and magazines
- Mail
- Mixed paper

CARDBOARD



- Flattened boxes
- Cereal and snack boxes
- Toilet paper and paper towel rolls

PLASTIC



- Bottles, tubs, and jugs
- Lids and labels may be left on

METAL



- Metal food cans
- Aluminum cans, foil, and trays
- Empty aerosol cans
- Labels may be left on

All materials must be empty, clean, and dry. Do not bag recyclables - leave materials loose in the bin. Labels and lids may be left on. **When in doubt, leave it out.**

DO NOT place these items in your recycling bin:



Do not bag recyclables - leave items loose in the bin



No plastic bags or film packaging - return to retailer



Bring glass to a Purple Can Club container, or place in trash



No food wrappers, bags, or packaging - place in trash



No styrofoam or plastic takeout containers - place in trash



No shredded paper - compost or place in trash

RECYCLING

Every household is required to recycle materials identified on the *Recycling Guide*. **Leave recyclables loose in the recycling containers. Recyclables placed in a plastic bag are automatically sent to the landfill by the recycling facility.**

Residents may use multiple recycling bins or supply a larger container labeled "recycling" (if possible, please choose blue-colored containers).

The city provides recycling bins upon request.
Email RefuseRecycling@fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7837.



Can I Put this In My Recycling Bin?

The most common form of recycling contamination stems from *wishcycling*, or adding items to your recycling bin without knowing if it is actually recyclable, hoping it will be disposed of properly. When in doubt, leave it out.



PLASTIC WRAP & FILM PACKAGING



Recycle bubble film packaging, air packets, plastic wrap, and film packaging at participating grocery stores.



TANGLERS

Hoses, Leashes, Chains, Ropes, String Lights, etc.



Tanglers jam sorting machinery and cause recycling facilities to be temporarily shut down. Reuse, repurpose, or place these items in the trash.



BATTERIES



Do not place batteries in the recycling or trash bin to avoid fire hazards. For detailed disposal information visit: fairfaxva.gov/HHW



LIGHT BULBS

Incandescent, Compact Fluorescent & LEDs



Light bulbs may contain mercury and are difficult to recycle. For detailed disposal information visit: fairfaxva.gov/HHW



STYROFOAM



Consider purchasing eggs in cardboard cartons or bringing your own take-out containers. Place styrofoam in the trash.



CLAMSHELL PACKAGING



Clamshell packaging is made with low-quality plastic, making it difficult to recycle. Place this type of packaging in the trash.



CLOTHING, SHOES & TEXTILES



Donate gently used clothing and shoes to local thrift stores, charities, or clothing swaps. Confirm if donation centers take rags and unkempt textiles.



PLASTIC SERVICWARE & CUTLERY



Plastic serveware is made of low-quality plastic, making it difficult to recycle. Reuse plastic serveware, or place in the trash.



PAPER PLATES & CUPS



Paper serveware with a thin layer of plastic should be placed in the trash. If there is no plastic coating, compost paper serveware at the city's composting center. See page 6.

For a detailed YES / NO list of recyclables accepted in the city's curbside recycling, visit fairfaxva.gov/recycling.

Voluntary Drop-off Programs

Composting

As much as a quarter of residential waste is organic material that can be composted. Residents are encouraged to drop off their food scraps at the city's 24-Hour Composting Center, adjacent to the Community Garden on the west side of Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St.



Pick up a FREE compost caddy at City Hall Atrium (lobby):
10455 Armstrong Street
Monday - Friday | 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Acceptable Items Guide



Fruit and Vegetable Scraps, Egg Shells, Coffee Grounds

*These items can also be composted in your backyard.



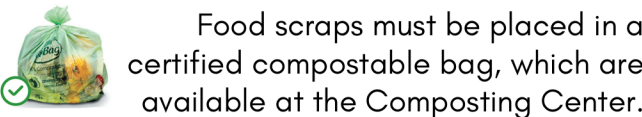
Meat, Seafood, Bones, and Shells | Bread, Pasta and Grains | Leftovers and Spoiled Food



Food Soiled Paper | *Certified Compostable Bags/Products | Paper Bags and Plates (no plastic coating)



Recyclables | Plastic Bags | Oil or Crisco | Styrofoam

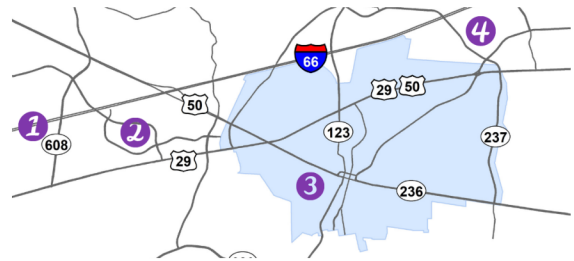


Food scraps must be placed in a certified compostable bag, which are available at the Composting Center.

fairfaxva.gov/composting

Glass Recycling

Glass is not accepted in curbside recycling. Glass should be reused, taken to one of the conveniently located Purple Can containers, or placed in the trash.



- 1 **I-66 Transfer Station:** 4618 West Ox Road
- 2 **Fairfax County Government Center:** 12000 Government Center Parkway
- 3 **10700 Page Ave:** Off Judicial Drive
- 4 **Providence Community Center:** 3001 Vaden Drive



Acceptable Items Guide

YES!



- ✓ All colors, shapes, & sizes of glass
- ✓ Empty & rinse
- ✓ Labels can be left on
- ✓ Caps & lids are ok

NO!



Do Not Bag Glass (place loose in the bin)



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap (return to retailers)



No Lamps or Light Bulbs (drop off at local hardware store)



No misc. Glass (ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, windows, etc.)

fairfaxva.gov/purplecan

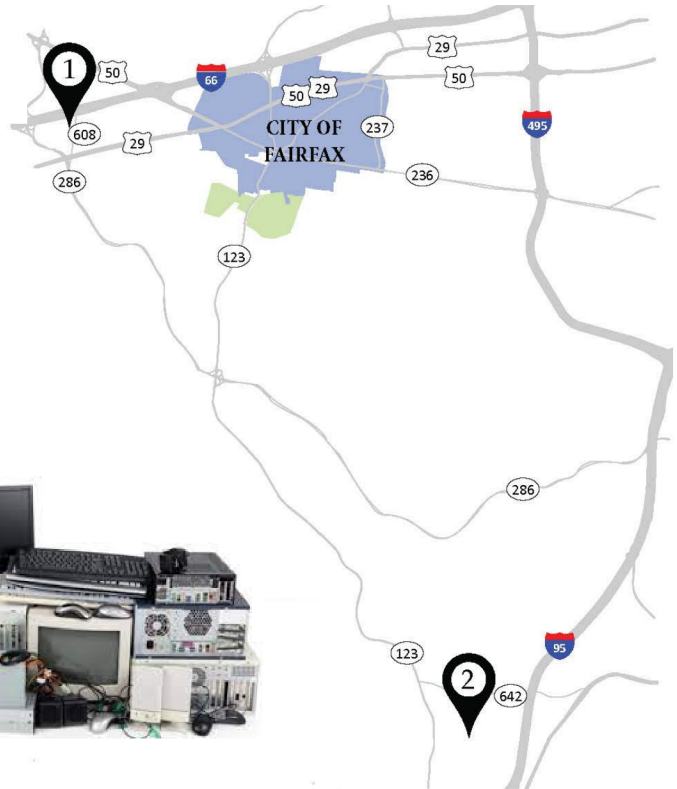
Waste and Recycling Drop-Off Centers

Fairfax City residents may use the Fairfax County Waste and Recycling Drop-Off Centers to dispose of trash and recycling, household hazardous waste, electronics (E-Waste), glass, food scraps, and more. Proof of City of Fairfax residency may be required. Acceptable forms of proof includes drivers license, state ID card, and property tax bill or utility bill.

For hours of operation and more information about the I-66 Transfer Station, and I-95 Landfill, visit: fairfaxcounty.gov

1 I-66 Transfer Station
4618 West Ox Road,
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-631-1179, TTY: 711

2 I-95 Landfill
9850 Furnace Road,
Lorton, VA 22079
703-690-1703, TTY: 711



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

- Computers
- Televisions
- Cell phones
- Gaming Systems
- Stereos
- Cables
- Other household electronics



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Automotive oil and antifreeze
- Cleaners and polishers
- Mercury (thermometers)
- Oil-based paint
- Stains and varnishes
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- Propane tanks
- Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides
- Paint thinners, strippers, and solvents



Household hazardous waste should never be disposed of in the regular trash or poured down the drain. Household hazardous waste refers to used or leftover contents of consumer products that contain materials that are toxic, corrosive, or reactive. For detailed disposal instructions, visit fairfaxva.gov/HHW

FREE MULCH

FREE Mulch can be picked up at the I-66 Transfer Station or I-95 Landfill when supplies are available. Call the Fairfax County Mulch Information Line: 703-324-5995, TTY: 711.



General Information and Resources

Trash and Recycling Website: fairfaxva.gov/recycling

General Trash and Recycling Questions, Missed Service, or to Request a New Bin:

Email RefuseRecycling@fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7837

Loose Dirt - Collection Arrangement: 703-385-7837

Leaf Collection Information: 703-385-LEAF

Composting Center: Composting@fairfaxva.gov

Rout Finder: To find your collection day, enter your address in our route finder at fairfaxva.gov/routefinder

All Other Inquiries Visit fairfaxva.gov

The City of Fairfax is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, please call 703-385-7850, TTY; 711.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

No curbside collection for trash or recycling will take place if your scheduled collection day falls on a holiday listed below. Collections will be delayed one day from the holiday, all other collections will remain the same throughout the rest of the holiday week.

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day

Stay Connected

STAY INFORMED WITH CITY ALERTS



Find out about city government activities and services via Fairfax City Alert. The city offers dozens of categories of interest, including government closures, tax payments, special events, safety messages, road closures, and more. Messages are sent via email, or text (and in rare circumstances telephone).

Enroll today: fairfaxva.gov/fairfaxcityalert

STAY CONNECTED



City of Fairfax Sustainability
[facebook.com/CityFfxSustain](https://www.facebook.com/CityFfxSustain)



FfxSustainability
[@CityFfxSustain](https://twitter.com/CityFfxSustain)



Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter at fairfaxva.gov/cityclips

GET INVOLVED

The Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) is an advisory committee made up of volunteers appointed by the City Council.

The ESC is committed to guiding the city to become a greener, more sustainable place to live, work, and play. Learn more at fairfaxva.gov/ESC.