

## **CURBSIDE RECYCLING & TRASH COLLECTION**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **What can I recycle?**

Forest Hills has instituted single stream recycling. The following items may be co-mingled in the recycling container (use the container obtained from the borough only; do not place in bags):

- **Cans** (tin, aluminum and bi-metal)
- **Glass bottles and jars** (clear and colored)
- **Plastics #1 to #5**
- **Paperboard** (cereal boxes, etc.)
- **Newsprint** (tied with string or put into paper bags—please on top of or next to your recycling bin)
- **Corrugated cardboard** (collected at the borough building as long as demand is high)

#### **Recycling Do's and Don'ts**

**DO** rinse out all cans, jars and plastic containers—take off lids and caps and throw them away. You do not have to remove the labels.

**DON'T** recycle bags (many grocery stores have collection bins for these), cups, foil or Styrofoam.

**DON'T** put recyclables in plastic bags. Keep them loose.

A complete listing of recycling resources for motor oils, computers, tires and numerous other items is available in the borough office or on the Allegheny County Web site—Recycling Resource Directory.

#### **Where can I get an additional or replacement recycling bin?**

Recycling containers are available for purchase at the borough building for \$15 (fee subject to change).

#### **What is the cost of garbage collection?**

Each household pays the borough a quarterly fee (contact the office for the current fee which may change from year to year) for curbside refuse collection and co-mingled recycling. For an additional fee, rear-yard collection may be arranged directly with Waste Management Customer Service at 800-458-4090. Special collection of hazardous waste, construction

materials, or dead animals exceeding 10 pounds may also be arranged with Waste Management. Senior citizens who qualify for the Allegheny County Act 77 tax relief program may pay a reduced refuse fee.

**What can I put in the garbage?**

All household refuse and bulky items except tires, car parts, construction materials, dirt, rocks and household hazardous waste (motor oil, dangerous chemicals, insecticides and paint). The contents of latex paint cans must be completely dry. Branches no longer than 48" in length, 2" in diameter, and not exceeding 35 pounds must be tied (bundled). Refrigerators (doors removed) and air conditioners must have the Freon removed by a licensed technician and tagged before being placed on the curb.

**How should garbage be stored and when is garbage picked up?**

All garbage should be stored in containers of 20 to 35 gallon capacity with tight fitting lids and handles of adequate strength for lifting and not exceed 60 pounds. Recycling should be collected in designated containers no larger than 20 gallons. These containers should be placed at the curb for collection no earlier than 6 p.m. the day preceding and no later than 6 a.m. the day of trash collection for pick up. The empty containers must be removed from the curb by 6 p.m. the same day. Recycling is collected every other week, and should be placed on the curb near the refuse containers.

**Where do I put the garbage and recycling for collection?**

Weekly garbage collection for most homes is on the front street. If your alley is paved, garbage may be collected there. Please refer to the borough Web site at [www.foresthillspa.org](http://www.foresthillspa.org) and select "information for residents" then "garbage and recycling schedules" (or call the borough office) if you have questions regarding your trash pick-up day or recycling schedule.

**What holidays affect garbage pickup?**

When they fall on a **weekday only**, garbage/recycling collection

is delayed by one day following New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

**What if my garbage is not picked up?**

Heavy snowfall may delay collection. Please be patient. If you are concerned that your home or street has been overlooked, please call the borough or Waste Management (after hours).

**How does the borough handle leaf collection?**

Forest Hills is required by PA Act 101 to separate leaf waste from other garbage. You are encouraged to compost or mulch your leaves. If you wish to dispose of the leaves, place them in a pile behind the curb line, not in the street. These leaves will be collected by the borough's public works department and composted. Look for leaf collection signs posted in your neighborhood. Do not put your leaves in plastic bags. (If you wish to bag them, use bio-degradable bags—large brown paper bags.)

**How does the borough handle yard waste collection?**

Forest Hills collects yard waste in the spring and early summer as outlined in our wood chipping program (see policy for details or contact the public works foreman 412-351-7330 x207). Briefly, the borough will provide the following service to residents at no additional costs as specified in the wood chipping program guidelines:

1. Approved items must be placed at the curb
2. Lumber, building materials, landscaping timbers etc. are not accepted
3. The chipper can accept brush, branches and trees up to ten (10) inches in diameter
4. Public works employees have the final say as to whether an item or the quantity is acceptable for removal
5. Materials will not be picked up from any apartment complex, business or institution.

Please see the complete policy for all guidelines and requirements.

**Compost for residential use**

Residents may pick up leaf mulch at the composting site operated in conjunction with Churchill Borough on Route 22. It is usually available the first two Saturdays of June; however, look for more information in the summer issues of the Tree City Times. There is a small fee.

**What other information on recycling & waste is helpful to know?**

**Recycling Alternatives**

*ABITIBI Paper Retriever*<sup>®</sup> is available in the municipal parking lot for collecting all of your newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, shopping catalogs and mail. Proceeds from this collection box benefits the Forest Hills Borough Volunteer Fire Department.

There is a collection box available at the borough office for **used cell phones, empty laser cartridges and inkjet printer cartridges.**

**Rechargeable batteries**—recycle rechargeable batteries at the borough office. Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion) and Small Sealed lead (Pb)\*Weighing less than two pounds.

**Household hazardous waste**—look for notices at the borough building or on the community calendar for special hazardous waste collection days.

**Construction Junction**—accepts donations of excess construction materials, cabinets, doors, windows, counter tops, etc. They are located at: 214 N. Lexington Avenue and the phone number is: 412-243-5025. Drop off appliances containing Freon and E-Waste (computer-related equipment) for a fee. Bicycles may be donated for reconditioning and reuse/resale. Rain barrels and composting bins are also available for sale.

**Other helpful information:**

**Rain barrels**—Collect storm water from your downspouts and use it to water your gardens. This may reduce your water and sewage bills while helping to control storm water runoff and sewage overflows while replenishing groundwater. See the borough web site environmental issues area for more information and directions on making your own rain barrel, or call the borough office.

**Composting**—like other recycling efforts, composting decreases the amount of solid waste sent to the landfill (reducing costs) and yields valuable soil amendment or may be used as mulch reducing the amount of water needed to keep plants healthy.

*This information is subject to change and intended only as a summary of the regulations regarding refuse and recycling. For more information, call the borough office at 412-351-7330, or see Chapter 20 in the Borough Code of Ordinances which is available at: [www.foresthillspa.org](http://www.foresthillspa.org); clicking on the "Information for Residents" tab then "Codes, Ordinances and Forms." You will see "Chapter 20, Solid Waste and Recycling," near the bottom of the page. The Code of Ordinances is also available for viewing at the borough building.*