

Trash And Recycling — Questions And Answers

What is the cost of trash collection?

Each household pays a fee per year to the borough that includes both trash collection and curbside recycling. This pro-rated charge is based on a low-bid contract awarded to the contracted hauler. Rear-yard collection for trash and recyclables is an additional charge payable directly to the contracted hauler. See the borough's fee resolution on the website to find the current fee.

What can I put in the trash?

All household refuse and bulky items, **with the exception of** tires, car parts, construction material, dirt, rocks and household hazardous waste (motor oil, dangerous chemicals, insecticides and paint). Paint cans must be totally empty.

Refrigerators (doors removed) and air conditioners must have the Freon drained by a registered plumber and be tagged as such before being placed at the curb (visit Watt Choices, a Duquesne Light program for removal of refrigerators, freezers <https://wattchoices.duquesnelight.com/> or call 1-800-257-2510)

Where do I put it?

All trash should be put in plastic bags and stored in containers of not more than 32-gallon capacity with tight fitting lids. These containers should be placed at the curb for collection with lids on.

When/where is trash picked up?

Weekly trash collection for most homes is on the front curb. If your alley is paved, trash will be collected there. Call the borough office at 412-351-7330 x 0 to obtain a street-by-street collection schedule or check the borough website.

What time can I put out the trash?

Trash containers must be placed at the curb no sooner than 6 p.m. the day before your scheduled pick up. Emptied cans must be removed no later than 6 p.m. on the day of pick up.

What if my trash isn't picked up?

In some cases, trash collection is delayed by one day following a holiday or a heavy snowfall. In these cases, it is not necessary to call the borough office to file a report... please be patient! If you are concerned that your home or street has been overlooked, please call 412-351-7330 x 0 or check the borough website for the hauler's phone number if the office is closed.

Recycling 101

It's the law

Act 101 ("Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act") mandates recycling in Pennsylvania's larger municipalities. Every community with a population of more than 5,000 is required to provide curbside recycling for its residents.

The borough's code of ordinances – Chapter 20 outlines all of the legal requirements for recycling at residences, apartment buildings, businesses, schools and institutions. A complete copy may be obtained at the borough office or check the borough website.

... And it's a good thing

Forest Hills residents recognize the value of recycling and we have a very high participation rate for our residential program. As a result, we are doing our part to save space in landfills while conserving resources that are used to create new materials and products.

In addition, the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection gives annual recycling performance grants to municipalities by giving them rebates based upon tons of materials collected. This money goes back into the general operating budget and is used for the benefit of the community.

What is the cost of recycling?

Each household pays an annual fee that includes both trash collection and curbside recycling, payable to the borough. This pro-rated charge is based on a low-bid contract awarded to the contracted hauler. Rear-yard collection for trash and recyclables is an additional fee payable directly to the contracted hauler. See the borough's fee resolution on the website to find the current fee.

The container for use with the borough's recycling program may be purchased for a fee (contact the borough office at 412-351-7330 x 0 for information).

What can I recycle in Forest Hills?

Forest Hills accepts the following items for curbside recycling:

Cans (tin, aluminum & bi-metal)
Glass bottles and jars (clear & colored)
Plastics (#1 PET, #2 HDPE, #3, #4, #5)
Paperboard (cereal boxes, etc.)
Newsprint, phone books, catalogs and magazines
Junk Mail and Office Paper

All of the above items may be co-mingled in your recycling container. In addition:

Black and white newsprint may be tied up with string or put into brown paper bags and left at curbside.

Household Hazardous Waste – Waste Management has a home pick up program. "At your door special collection" provides year round collection. Call 800-449-7587 to make an appointment.

Recycling Dos and Don'ts:

DO rinse out all cans, jars and plastic containers, especially those containing food. Take off all lids and caps and throw them in the trash. You don't have to remove labels.

DON'T recycle bags, cups, Styrofoam trays or clear acrylic containers that are easily bent or broken

DON'T recycle any container that held chemicals, motor oil or insecticides.

DON'T put recyclables in plastic or paper bags. Keep them loose in the recycling containers for pick-up.

When can I put out the recycling?

Uncovered recycling containers must be placed at the curb no sooner than 6 p.m. the day before your scheduled pick up. Emptied cans must be removed no later than 6 p.m. on the day of pick up.

When is my recycling collected?

Recycling is picked up every other week, on your regular trash day. Check the Trash Recycling Calendar for additional information.

In some cases, refuse/recycling collection is delayed by one day following a holiday or a heavy snowfall. In these cases, it is not necessary to call the borough office to file a report... please be patient! If you are concerned that your home or street has been overlooked, please call 412-351-7330 x 0 or check the borough website for the hauler's phone number if the office is closed.

How about the other stuff?

- There are dumpsters in the parking lot of Construction Junction (<http://www.constructionjunction.org>) in Point Breeze (N. Lexington and Meade) where you may take phone books, corrugated cardboard (flattened boxes) and plastics not accepted by the borough. Always open.
- Used building materials in good condition for resale may be taken to Construction Junction. Call 412-243-5025 or www.constructionjunction.org.
- Eyeglasses, are accepted for recycling at the borough office.
Most wireless providers take old phones (not just their brand) and donate them to charity.
 - ▶ Verizon's *HopeLine* donates used cell phones to assist victims of domestic violence. Nearest drop-off location is Circuit City in Monroeville as of the date this is posted. Contact Verizon for additional information or to check locations (<http://www.verizon.com>)
 - ▶ Printer cartridges (not Epson, Canon or Brother) can be redeemed at Office Depot (<http://www.officedepot.com/>) for a free ream of paper or \$2.50 off next cartridge purchase.

- Dumpsters for collection of newsprint, mail, catalogs, magazines and cardboard are located at the Poolparking lot and at several local schools and churches.

- Used building materials in good condition for resale may be taken to Construction Junction. Call 412-243-5025 or www.constructionjunction.org. You may also contact Habitat for Humanity.

A complete listing of recycling resources — for motor oil, computers, tires, bicycles and numerous other items — may be obtained at the borough office and at the Allegheny County Health Dept. website.

Commercial recycling

Commercial, municipal and institutional establishments within Forest Hills are required to recycle aluminum, high-grade office paper and corrugated paper in addition to the other materials accepted by the borough for its residential recycling program.

Each establishment, or the company that collects their recycling, must submit an annual commercial recycling report to the borough manager by February 15 of each year. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to \$600.

More details about the Forest Hills commercial recycling program can be found in the brochure “Businesses: Why Recycle?” which is available at the borough office.

Leaf collection

Forest Hills is required by Act 101 to separate leaf waste from other trash, so don't put your leaves in trash bags. 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. They should not be placed on the street.

In late fall, leaves are collected by a vacuum truck and taken to a composting site that is operated jointly by Forest Hills and Churchill boroughs. Watch for signs posted in your neighborhood to indicate estimated pick-up dates, usually from late October through the first snowfall in early December.

Compost for residents

Residents may pick up composted leaf mulch in the spring at cost (a small fee to cover some of the overtime expenses) on two Saturdays in June (dates are announced in the Tree City Times):

One visit per household per day
Bring containers and a shovel to load your own compost

If you bring an open truck, borough employees will load the compost using heavy machinery. You will need a driver's license as proof of Forest Hills residency

Directions to pick-up site: Exit Parkway East at Monroeville Business Route 22. Site is just past first light (Nottingham) on the left side of Route 22. You will have to turn around on 22 and head back west in order to access site.

Delivery is also available via private hauler. Make arrangements by calling the borough office.

Questions? Call Public Works at 412-351-7330 x. 207

Wood Chipping Program

The seasonal wood chipping program is provided at no cost as a service to our residents. Materials will not be picked up from any apartment complex, business or institution.

To schedule the chipper, just call (412) 351-7330, extension 207 and speak to the public works foreman. When leaving a message, please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number so that the office can get back to you. Please be sure to call before placing the items to be chipped at the curb, and we will schedule you in as quickly as possible.

Wood chips will be collected by appointment only according to the following schedule (weather permitting and except during emergencies and holidays):

APRIL: First & Second Wednesday

MAY: First & Second Wednesday

JUNE: First & Second Wednesday

JULY: Second & Third Wednesday

There will be a limited number of pickups per week. The crew will spend a maximum of 20 minutes at each property with an appointment. The remainder of the pile will be completed the following Wednesday.

Place the items at the curb in a neat, orderly fashion with the larger end facing the street (no alleys). All limbs and brush should be facing the same direction. The chipper can accept brush, branches, and trees up to 8 inches in diameter. No root systems or tree parts that have dirt on them will be removed. Piles of brush that are intertwined will not be chipped. We do not accept any type of lumber, building materials, or landscaping timbers. The Public Works employees will have the final say as to whether or not an item or the quantity is acceptable for removal.

Wood chips, if available, are free to all Borough residents and can be picked up by appointment only from Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 AM and 2 PM during the months of May through August. You will be informed of the exact location of pickup when making an appointment.

Yard Waste

Yard waste is defined by the borough as:

Leaves, cuttings, trimmings and clippings from trees, bushes and other plants, garden residues, and chipped shrubbery, but does not include grass clippings.

The borough allows residents to deposit yard waste in a container located behind the public works garage. The container is available from April through October.

The borough crew will collect the material and deposit it into a dumpster for recycling.
Questions? Call Public Works at 412-351-7330 x. 207

Information included here may be changed without notice. Contact the borough office for updated information on the borough's program or check the website for further information.