

SOLID WASTE SERVICES IN ASHFORD HOLLOW

Both your green recycling bin and your black garbage bin have serial numbers printed on them.

Write the numbers down to use if you ever need to report them stolen)

We are on City of Houston's weekly Monday pickup for household garbage and yard trimmings, alternate Monday pickup for recycling, and alternating monthly pickups for tree waste and junk waste. If Monday is a City of Houston holiday, pickup will be on Tuesday. Your cooperation will save our tax dollars by making collection more efficient, by reducing the need for more landfill space (with its adverse impact on adjacent residential communities), and by making recycling more profitable. Violations may result in fines ranging from \$50 to \$2,000. **Complete information, including printable pdf calendars, is available at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/ or by phoning 311.** Here are some basics:

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE: The City provides 90-gallon automated black rolling bins for household garbage. If your bin is damaged or missing, phone 311 for a replacement. The bin should be placed curbside with the handle pointing toward your home at least 3 feet from obstructions such as mailboxes, parked cars or other bins. Set your bin out between 6pm the day before, and 7am the day of, pickup – and remove it by 10pm that evening. Do not use this bin for household chemicals, rechargeable batteries (alkaline OK), fluorescent bulbs, paints (unless first opened and allowed to completely dry), fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, cleaners, motor oil, photographic chemicals, construction debris (including rocks, dirt, plywood, bricks, stone, concrete, mortar, sheet rock, insulations, flooring, shingles, siding, glass, mirrors, etc.) or electronics. Also do not place dead animals, computer equipment, recyclables or yard waste in this bin. Overflow bags of garbage or boxes may be set out if a \$2 “Tags for Bags” sticker, available at Fiesta, Kroger and Sellers Brothers, is attached.

YARD TRIMMINGS: Grass clippings, small branches and leaves should not be placed in the automated garbage or recycling bins. They may be placed in city-approved compostable bags not weighing more than 50 pounds. Do not mix plastic or other waste in this bag. Small branches may be tied in bundles of less than 4 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter, and weighing less than 50 pounds.

RECYCLING: The City provides a 96-gallon automated green rolling bin for your recyclables, replaceable by phoning 311. As with garbage bins, place them curbside by 7am, and remove them by 10pm. Again, bin should have handle pointed toward your house, and it should be three feet from any obstruction. **It is important to put only clean items in this container, i.e. no greasy pizza boxes or containers with food still in them.** This bin is only for *clean* paper, cardboard (boxes flattened), junk mail, newspaper, magazines, phone books, metal or aluminum cans, empty aerosol cans, clear or colored glass, aluminum foil and containers, and any plastic containers or trays marked as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7. Do not place #6 plastic, polystyrene or styrofoam in the bin as it can never be recycled or reused. Do not place plastic bags, saran-type wrap, waxed paper or gift-wrapping paper, especially foil wrap. Used motor oil may be placed next to the recycling bin in an appropriate container.

The City Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark (5815 Southwest Freeway) , a drive-through facility, is open Monday thru Saturday, 8am to 5pm. It accepts normal recycling items, as well as styrofoam, batteries, oil filters, used tires, latex paint, antifreeze, fluorescent bulbs, computers and other electronics. It also maintains a ReStore which acts as a book swap, recycling information library and post-consumer and post-industrial scrap swap.

The Environmental Service Center at 11500 S. Post Oak is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm, plus 2nd Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. They accept all household hazardous waste and electronic scrap items that cannot be placed curbside or in your bins.

The Building Materials ReUse Warehouse will accept construction material for use by any non-profit organization. As construction material accounts for 38% of the waste stream in our area, this effort was partially funded by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Call 311 or email reuse.warehouse@houstontx.gov for more information.

Composting of yard trimmings, leaves, grass clippings, vegetable and fruit scraps, etc, benefits your garden – buy a composting container, simply make a pile in your yard, or save kitchen scraps in your freezer and bury them in your flower beds.

Batteries may be taken to Batteries Plus at 2662 S. Gessner; numerous businesses accept rechargeable batteries. Plastic pots and trays from nurseries may be taken to the Houston Arboretum in Memorial Park for recycling. Packing peanuts and bubble wrap are gratefully received by any nearby pack-and-ship store. JUST MOVED? Surplus moving boxes may be flattened and taken to the recycling bins at the Shadowbriar Elementary School on Overbrook, along with your overflow packing paper.

TREE/JUNK WASTE: This is collected on alternate months, on the 4th Wednesday. (January, March, May, July, September, and November for Tree Waste; other months for Junk Waste.) It may be placed curbside, not in the street, beginning 6pm of the previous Friday. Check solid waste website for detailed information, and instructions on taking to Neighborhood Depositories at non-collection times.

DEAD ANIMALS will be picked up from the street by calling 311; on freeways and feeders phone TxDOT, 713-802-5000.

STORM DRAINS are not garbage cans. They are meant to alleviate our infamous flooding by carrying untreated rainwater directly to our bayous, thus to Galveston Bay, thus to the Gulf of Mexico. Please don't pollute or endanger our seafood by adding used oil, paint, excess lawn chemicals, animal excrement, cigarette filters, plastic bags, balloons, etc. Don't clog them with branches, bottles, leaves, or cans - the car or carpet that you save may be your own!