

HOUSTON COUNTY SANITATION DEPARTMENT

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE & TRASH COLLECTION POLICY

Approved October 2022

I. DEFINITIONS

DEFINITION OF GARBAGE: Garbage is defined as all debris accumulated within the household that needs disposal. Garbage *does not* include household furnishings, carpet, construction debris, remodeling debris, appliances, batteries, tires, or propane tanks.

DEFINITION OF TRASH: Trash is defined as large cardboard boxes, toys, household furnishings, and appliances that are produced by the homeowner, not a contractor.

DEFINITION OF LIMB/YARD DEBRIS: Limb/yard debris is defined as any of the following: trees, tree limbs, shrubbery, grass trimmings, leaves, and pine straw that are produced by the homeowner, not a contractor.

DEFINITION OF CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING DEBRIS: Construction and remodeling debris is defined as any of the following: wood, metal, sheetrock, drywall, insulation, cabinetry, tile, light fixtures, doors, windows, etc. that are produced by the homeowner, not a contractor.

Please see Section VIII. for the procedure for having Trash and Limb/Yard Debris picked up and the charges for pickup of those items.

Please note that the County **will not** pick up batteries, tires, or propane tanks and disposal of these items is the responsibility of the resident.

II. CONTAINERS

All Garbage shall be bagged in heavy duty plastic bags that are placed loosely in assigned Houston County Garbage Containers. The Houston County Sanitation Department will not be responsible for spillage of Garbage due to stray animals or containers being improperly placed on the county right-of-way. Bags not placed in assigned containers and unauthorized containers will not be picked up by Houston County.

1. Contents

- A. Containers shall contain only Garbage.
- B. Garbage must be bagged to avoid wind-blown litter.
- C. Needles of any kind must be placed into a bottle or other plastic container before being placed in the Garbage.
- D. No hot ashes, liquids, paints, tires, animal carcasses, household hazardous waste, or automobile parts.
- E. Animal waste must be double bagged.

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2. Capacities

- A. All Garbage must be placed loosely in the container and not compacted.
- B. The lid must be closed and have nothing on top of the container.
- C. The total weight of all contents shall not exceed 250 pounds.

III. FEES

The Alabama Law (Ala. Code §§22-27-1, et seq.) which establishes mandatory participation in and subscription to the system of services by Houston County provides that every person, household, business, industry, or property owner is liable for the monthly fee for the solid waste or garbage collection services made available to such person, household, business, industry or property owner for the property generating solid waste or garbage.

1. Monthly Fee

The fee for Garbage pickup is currently twenty dollars (\$20.00) per month. There will be a \$5.00 per month late fee for any account that is not paid in full by the billing due date.

Any customer who's sanitation fee is delinquent by 60 days will receive a notice indicating that the can will be picked up if payment is not received within 30 days. If payment becomes 90 days or more past due, the garbage can will be picked up. **If a garbage container is picked up for nonpayment, a pickup and re-delivery service charge of \$50.00 will be assessed and added to the outstanding balance due by the customer.** In addition, customers who fail to pay their garbage bill may be subject to civil and criminal action.

2. Replacement Cost of Garbage Containers

If a container is damaged by a resident beyond use or the container is lost or damaged because it was not removed from the right-of-way by close of business the following day, the resident must pay \$150.00 to receive a new container.

If the container becomes damaged from normal use, repairs will be made by Houston County, or a replacement container will be issued. If the container is lost or stolen the customer must contact Houston County Sanitation Department.

3. Additional Garbage Containers

Sanitation customers may request an additional container. There will be a one hundred twenty-five dollar (\$125.00) NON-REFUNDABLE, one-time rental fee per extra container.

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All containers are assigned to an address, not a customer/resident. The containers must be moved to a new address by the Houston County Sanitation Department. Do not take the garbage containers if you move.

IV. LOCATION

All containers shall be placed on Houston County right of ways on the scheduled pickup day and shall be placed within three (3) feet of the edge of the road. Containers that are beyond reach of the garbage trucks or are placed in the wrong location will not be picked up. Once the container is properly placed on the right-of-way, the Garbage will be collected on the *next* regularly scheduled pickup day.

If the County Engineer determines that a non-county-maintained road could be damaged by the sanitation trucks or could cause damage to the sanitation trucks or may be unsafe for the sanitation trucks to travel, then an alternate pickup location will be assigned (such as the nearest county-maintained road right-of-way).

V. TIME

Household garbage containers shall be placed on the right-of-way by 6:00 a.m. on your regular collection day. Garbage will be picked up once per week on your assigned day. If you fail to have your Garbage out on the right-of-way by 6:00 a.m. on your scheduled pickup day, that Garbage will not be picked up until your next scheduled pickup day of the following week.

VI. EMPTY CONTAINERS

Sanitation customers/residents are responsible for removing the containers from the right-of-way. Empty containers must be removed from the right-of-way by close of business the following day. If the container is not removed from the county right-of-way, by close of business the day following Garbage collection, the container will be tagged with a warning, and will be recorded by Houston County Sanitation Personnel. If the container is left out on the right-of-way two days or longer beyond the day of garbage collection, it will be considered no longer in use and may be removed by the Sanitation Department. **If a garbage container is retrieved for being left on the right-of-way, a pickup and re-delivery service charge of \$50.00 will be assessed and added to the outstanding balance due by the customer.**

VII. HOLIDAYS

The Houston County Sanitation Department observes twelve holidays per calendar year. Some of the holidays are considered off holidays, which means there will be no pickup that day. And some of the holidays are considered working holidays, which means the garbage pickup day will remain the same for that week.

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The County Engineer and the County Commission decide the County Holiday Schedule and the Sanitation Holiday Schedule. This schedule is sent to all sanitation customers in November or December for the following calendar year. The holiday schedule can also be found online at www.houstoncountyal.gov under ► Departments ► Sanitation Pickup ► Holiday Pickup Schedule.

Houston County Holidays (subject to change at the discretion of the commission).

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day / Robert E. Lee birthday
- President's Day
- Confederate Memorial Day
- Memorial Day
- Jefferson Davis Birthday
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

VIII. TRASH, CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS, AND LIMB/YARD DEBRIS PICKUP

Trash and remodeling and construction debris (see definitions) that is deemed eligible, will be picked up at a residence unless there is an excessive amount. If it is determined to be an excessive amount it will result in a charge (see below). Limbs and Yard Debris (see definition) shall be no greater than 5ft in length. All amounts of limbs and yard debris will result in a charge. Limbs and yard debris need to be separated from all other material. Any trash or debris that is determined to have been produced by a contractor or placed on the right of way by heavy machinery will be assessed a minimum charge of \$300.00.

Please call the Sanitation Department (334-793-5442 Ext 2) and place a trash, construction debris, or limb pickup work order. There will not be a set date or time for this service. **All limbs and yard debris will incur a mandatory pick-up charge.** A Sanitation Supervisor will go to the residence and give a price quote, if applicable, for the pickup. Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday, from 6:30 am until 5:00 pm.

Charges for bulk pickup larger than a 10ft x 10ft area of Trash (see definition)

Minimum Charge \$50.00

Half Truck Load \$75.00

Full Truck Load \$150.00

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Charges for any amount of yard debris (limbs, trees, shrubbery, etc.)

Minimum Charge \$50.00

Half Truck Load \$75.00

Full Truck Load \$150.00

Once the debris has been assessed, residents have 7 business days to pay the fee. If the fee is not paid within 7 days, you will receive a notification informing you that you have 7 additional days to pay or have the debris removed from the right of way. Failure to comply will result in the trash or debris being placed off county right of way back onto the resident's property.

- *Contractor debris will be charged a minimum of \$300.00*
- *All charges are quoted and must be **paid in full**, in advance of the pickup.*
- *There may be exceptions to these guidelines, such as in the event of a natural disaster.*

Please observe the following guidelines when placing trash near the street on the right-of-way:

1. Do not put Trash in the street (roadway), as this would create a traffic hazard.
2. Do not let Trash block gutters, ditches, or any portions of the County drainage system.
3. Do not place Trash around fire hydrants, signposts, guide wires, power poles, over water meters, over masonry work, or against fences.
4. Do not place Trash under low hanging power lines, phone lines, television cables, low tree limbs, or near mailboxes.
5. The County **will not** pick up tree stumps or debris from land or lot clearing.
6. The County **will not** pick up batteries, tires, or propane tanks.
7. Burning is not allowed on County right of ways. The Sanitation Department will not pick up any burn debris.