

# Solid Waste Services

For City of Falls Church

Curbside Customers



City of Falls Church

Department of Environmental Services

October 2010



# Important Contact Information For Solid Waste Customers

City Website..... [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov)

City Schools Website ..... [www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org)

Community Center ..... 703-248-5077

Court - Civil ..... 703-248-5098

Court – Traffic..... 703-248-5096

City Council & City Clerk ..... 703-248-5014

DMV Select..... 703-248-5019

Electricity (Dominion Power) ..... 888-667-3000

Fire/Rescue EMERGENCY ..... 911

Gas (Washington Gas) ..... 703-750-1000

Library (Mary Riley Styles Public Library)..... 703-248-5030

Police EMERGENCY ..... 703-241-5050

Police Non-Emergency ..... 703-241-5053

Police Records..... 703-248-5054

Refuse & Recycling (Solid Waste Hotline) ..... 703-248-5160

Schools – Falls Church City Public Schools ..... 703-248-5600

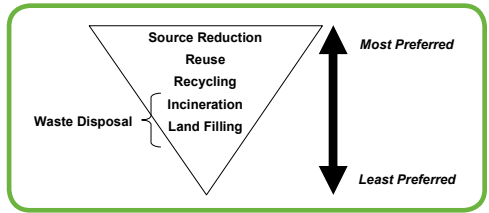
Vehicle Decals..... 703-248-5046

Voter Registration ..... 703-248-5085

Water (billing, new service)..... 703-248-5071

# Solid Waste Management In the City of Falls Church

The City of Falls Church provides curbside solid waste services to a majority of residents in single-family homes and townhomes. In providing these services, the City of Falls Church is committed to providing customer friendly, cost-effective and efficient solid waste programs. The City's 2004 20-Year Solid Waste Management Plan established goals and strategies for the operational and financial management of our the solid waste system, including a hierarchy establishing a preferred order of managing solid waste.



At the top of the tier is the most preferred approach: “source reduction”. Reducing the amount of solid waste generated reduces the need for collection, transportation and disposal, saving tax payer money. At the bottom of the tier is the least preferred approach: “incineration or land-filling” which costs more money, uses more energy and has other environmental impacts. View the Solid Waste Management Plan at [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov).

## Source Reduction

Americans generate nearly twice the amount of trash per person as they did 25 years ago. Included below are some ways to reduce the amount of solid waste placed curbside.

### Reduce Trash:

- Buy items with less packaging
- Buy items in bulk or in large containers instead of in single-serving packages
- Use reusable containers, cups, napkins, and bags for lunches
- Take reusable bags to the store

### Reduce Yard Waste:

- **Grasscycle:** Leave clippings on the lawn
- **Compost:** Start a compost pile for small trimmings, grass clippings and twigs

### Reduce Recycling:

- Instead of buying single-serving containers buy larger containers and use a reusable mug or glass
- Read the newspaper online
- Stop receiving unwanted catalogs by asking to be removed from the mailing list
- Take usable books to the Mary Riley Styles Public Library for resale

### Reuse:

- Donate unwanted clothing, furniture and household items
- Buy items from thrift stores or online reuse sites
- Use plastic bags more than once before recycling

For a list of ways  
to recycle or donate  
items visit  
[www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov)

# Weekly Curbside Services

## General Information

**What** – Weekly trash, recycling, yard waste, bundled brush and special bulk collection (by request) is provided to a majority of City of Falls Church residents living in single-family homes and town homes. Visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov) to view a solid waste services map.

**When** – Once a week on Wednesdays (except City designated holidays). To ensure collection, place items at the curb no later than 7 a.m. Wednesday (or after 5 p.m. Tuesday evening).

**Where** – Place items in an easily accessible area in the public right-of-way, as close to the street as possible. Pipestem properties are required to set materials in the public right-of-way. Do not place items near storm drain openings or on private property.

**How** – Trash and Recycling Carts – Residential solid waste customers are provided one gray rolling trash cart and one green rolling recycling cart per address. These solid waste carts are the property of the City of Falls Church and must stay with the residence. Current customers will be charged a replacement cost of approximately \$65 for intentional damage, misuse or removal of the cart from the assigned property. Customers are responsible for keeping carts clean. To identify your assigned cart, write your address with permanent marker on the side of each cart in the white rectangle.

**300 Park Avenue**



Personal Containers – Some customers opt to use personal containers and bags for trash and personal containers and bins for recycling. Personal containers must be sized less than 30 gallons and weigh less than 50 pounds when full. Customers are responsible for keeping personal containers and bins clean.

**Excess Trash and Recycling** – Excess trash that does not fit into the cart may be placed in bags or personal containers. Excess recycling that does not fit into the cart may be placed in bins, personal containers clearly marked “recycling”, cardboard boxes and paper bags. Customers are responsible for keeping bins and personal containers clean. See “Fee for Service” on page 5.

**Holiday Schedule** – Typically, very few holidays fall on Wednesday. However, in the event of a Wednesday holiday, trash collection will occur on the next non-holiday weekday. Check the website ([www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov)), Solid Waste Hotline, 703-248-5160, or local newspaper for current, specific schedule changes.

**Severe Weather / Emergencies** – During severe weather or emergency situations, collections may be suspended to ensure the safety of workers, residents, equipment and vehicles parked in residential areas. If collection must be suspended, your items will be picked up as soon as possible with priority given to trash collection. Items may be left at the curb as long as they are secure. Call the Solid Waste Hotline, 703-248-5160, for more information during severe weather or emergencies. To receive emergency alerts from the City, sign up at [alert.fallschurchva.gov](http://alert.fallschurchva.gov)

**Fee for Service** – Although the majority of solid waste service costs are included in general real estate taxes, some services are “pay as you go”. Yard waste and bulk item collection each have a separate fee for service. A fee for excess trash may be vetted by City Council beginning in 2011.

**Missed Collection?** Call the Solid Waste Hotline, 703-248-5160. If your items were properly prepared and set out by 7 a.m., they will be collected. Please leave items at the curb after reporting a missed collection.

**Tagged Item?** If a yellow tag was left on your item or at your door, read the tag for specific instructions about properly preparing items for the next collection.

**Notice of Violation** – According to the Solid Waste Code (Chapter 34) a warning followed by a fine may be issued if items are improperly prepared for collection. Fines may also be issued for dumping, littering, stockpiling of debris or other health and safety related violations.



# Recycling Service

The City of Falls Church has one of the highest recycling rates in the Commonwealth of Virginia thanks to convenient curbside collection and dedicated residential customers. Recycling saves tax dollars and benefits the environment! Help increase the recycling rate by following these simple guidelines.

## Set-Out Requirements

**What** – Place all recyclable material into the cart (or bin), no separation is necessary.

- Empty and rinse all containers
- Place cardboard boxes inside or next to the recycling cart (or bin). Boxes do not need to be broken down.
- Place all plastic bags and plastic film together inside one bag – “bag in a bag”.



**When** – Once a week on Wednesdays (except City designated holidays). Trucks collect between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Where** – Place recycling cart (or bin) in the right-of-way, next to but separate from trash.

**How** – To ensure collection, place items at the curb no later than 7 a.m. Wednesday (or after 5 p.m. Tuesday evening).

**Excess Recycling** – There is no limit to how much recycling may be placed at the curb. If items do not fit into the cart (or bin), extra containers (clearly marked recycling), cardboard

boxes or paper bags may be used. Please DO NOT put recycling inside a black or white plastic trash bag. Place extra recycling next to the recycling cart and away from trash.

**Where does your recycling go?** American Disposal Services collects recyclable items in rear-load packer trucks. The recyclables are transported to a Material Recycling Facility where they are separated into marketable commodities such as paper, plastic and aluminum. The City of Falls Church has a contract to sell recyclables to Waste Management.



# Recycle Right!

## DO recycle



**YES**

## DON'T recycle



**NO**



# Trash Service

Help save tax dollars by keeping recyclables out of the trash!

## Set-Out Requirements

**What** – Routine household trash collection is provided only for the removal of materials resulting from normal residential use and routine home maintenance. Solid waste from any work done by a contractor must not be included with trash. Yard waste and brush are prohibited from trash. If trash includes even a small amount of yard waste, it will not be collected. See Yard Waste and Brush, pages 10-11, for more information.

The following materials are **NOT** collected with household trash:

- Yard waste and brush
- Furniture and other items too large to fit inside a trash cart or trash bag
- Hazardous materials, see Household Hazardous Waste, page 15
- Drywall, shingles, lumber, tiles, asbestos
- Bricks, concrete, block, rocks, stones
- Dirt, sod, sand, railroad ties
- Large metal items (take to the Recycling Center)
- Paint cans with wet paint
- Windows, sheets of glass, mirrors
- Stumps and trees
- Tires

**Water-based paint is not hazardous but it must be prepared properly for collection! Fill cans with sand or kitty litter to adsorb paint residue. Allow the contents to dry and then place cans (with lids ajar) next to the trash on collection day.**

Some of the above items may be collected as Special Bulk Collections, see page 12.

**When** - Once a week on Wednesdays (except City designated holidays). Trucks collect between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Where** - Place trash cart (private can or bag) in the right-of-way, next to but separate from recycling.

**How** - To ensure collection, place items at the curb no later than 7 a.m. Wednesday (or after 5 p.m. Tuesday evening). Trash must be contained within a water-tight cart, container or bag.

**Excess Trash** – Currently, there is no limit to the amount of trash that may be placed at the curb. If items do not fit into the City issued cart, extra containers or bags may be used as long as they are water-tight and weigh less than 50 pounds when full.

City Council may require a bag fee for excess trash in 2011. More information will be delivered to customers prior to implementing a “pay as you go” fee.

**Where does your trash go?** American Disposal Services collects trash in rear-load packer trucks and transports it to the Fairfax County I-66 Transfer Station. The trash is “tipped” onto a floor, pushed into large transport trailers and taken to the I-95 Energy Resource Recover Facility (owned and operated by Covanta Fairfax, Inc.) where it is incinerated.



The steam produced generates electricity that is sent back to the electrical grid. The resulting ash is buried in the Fairfax County I-95 Landfill Complex. The City pays a “tipping fee” (currently \$55 per ton) for each ton of trash sent to the I-66 Transfer Station.



# Yard Waste Service

Yard waste service is partially paid for with general taxes and partially paid for as a “pay as you go” service. Customers placing yard bags at the curb, fund the service, in part through the sale of orange collection stickers, which must be placed on each bag of yard waste set out for collection.

## Set-Out Requirements

**What** – Yard waste includes cut grass, leaves, plant and shrub trimmings and other items too small to include with bundled brush. Yard waste should only include trimmings arising from general landscape maintenance. Do not include non-compostable garden debris such as sod, dirt, rocks, sand or lumber. Do not include food waste or trash of any kind.

**When** - Once a week on Wednesdays (except City designated holidays). Trucks collect between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Where** - Place yard bags in the right-of-way, next to bundled brush and separate from recycling and trash.

**How** - Materials must be placed in 30-gallon paper yard debris bags, available at local grocery and hardware stores. An orange City of Falls Church collection sticker (50 cents each) must be affixed to each bag and each bag must weigh less than 50 pounds.

Properly composting yard waste on your property saves tax dollars! See Composting, page 17 to learn more.



**In the event of damaging storms, the bundled brush policy is only waived if a state or federal emergency is declared.**

**Brown paper yard debris bags break-down into compost – plastic bags do not!**

**Stickers are available at City Hall Treasurer’s Office (Suite 103 East), Brown’s Hardware (Corner of Broad Street and S. Washington Street) and Giant Food Store (Corner of Haycock Road and Broad Street).**



# Bundled Brush Service

Brush that is neatly bundled with twine or neatly stacked in a container is picked up free of charge. Special Bulk Collections are available for unbundled brush, see page 12.

## Set-Out Requirements

**What** – Brush includes tree branches, small tree stumps, and larger shrub trimmings. Brush resulting from contractor tree trimming or removal will not be collected.

**When** - Once a week on Wednesdays (except City designated holidays). Trucks collect between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Where** - Place bundles of brush or brush container in the right-of-way, next to yard waste bags and separate from recycling and trash.

**How** - Brush must be cut in five-foot lengths with no individual branch or trunk larger than six inches in diameter.

Two ways to prepare:



- Securely tie up branches with cord or twine
- Place branches neatly (stacked in one direction) in a tote, bin or container sized less than 30 gallons and label the container "BRUSH"

Each bundle or container of brush must not exceed 50 pounds nor be too large or bulky to be loaded safely into the collection vehicle.

**Where does your yard waste and bundled brush go?** American Disposal Services collects yard bags and brush in rear-load packer trucks and transports it to one of two large composting facilities in the region. The brush is chipped into wood chips or wood mulch and the bagged yard trimmings are placed in large "windrows" where they naturally degrade into compost. Currently the City pays a "tipping fee" of \$34 per ton to recycle yard waste and brush.



## Unbundled Brush

Collection of unbundled brush requires a special pickup and fee (\$65 per 2 cubic yards of material). Small branches may also be placed in paper yard debris bags with orange collection stickers, see Yard Waste, page 10.

## Self-Haul Option

Loose brush is accepted at the Fairfax County Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, for a fee. Call 703-631-1179 (TTY 711) for more information.

# Special Bulk Collection Service

Bulk item collection is partially paid for with general taxes and partially paid for as a “pay as you go” service. Customers using this call-in service currently pay a minimum of \$65 per two cubic yards of material and \$25 per appliance (limit of two appliances per collection). Customers are billed after collection.

To schedule a collection call the Solid Waste Hotline, [703-248-5160](tel:703-248-5160). Items will be collected on the date indicated in the automated answering machine message.

## Set-Out Requirements

**What** – Special Bulk Collections are intended for bulky trash and recycling that is too large to fit in a trash cart/can and also for unbundled brush resulting from routine home maintenance and landscaping. Contractor waste will not be collected.

**When** - Once a week BY APPOINTMENT on Wednesdays (except City designated holidays). Trucks collect between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Where** – After scheduling a collection, place items in the right-of-way but behind the curb and separate from regular trash, recycling, bundled brush and yard waste. Place items away from parked vehicles, low hanging limbs and wires. Do not obstruct fire hydrants, manhole covers, storm drains or sidewalks.

**How** – Place “trash” in one pile and unbundled brush in another pile. Place recyclable metal items (such as appliances, metal fencing, metal basketball goals etc.) and recyclable electronic items (such as TVs, and computers) in a separate pile.



# Seasonal Curbside Services

## Vacuum Leaf Collection Service

Leaves are collected from residential streets in the fall. Leaf collection typically begins mid-October and continues through mid-December each year. Collected leaves are processed into high quality leaf mulch and offered back to residents in the spring.

### Set-Out Requirements

**What** – Vacuum leaf collection is intended to remove loose leaves that have fallen from deciduous trees in the fall. Do not mix other yard debris with leaves as it may damage equipment.

**When** – Residential streets are vacuumed from mid-October through mid-December. Each residential street is vacuumed at least two times. Since it is not possible to predict when the heaviest leaf drop will occur, it is not possible to establish an exact street-by-street schedule. Check the local paper or visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov) to check the collection schedule. Also, look for electronic message boards and signs announcing leaf collection in your area. The schedule may be adjusted due to weather conditions, the volume of leaves, and crew progress. For more information, call the Operations Division at 703-248-5281 (TTY 711).

**Curbside yard waste collection and bundled brush collection continue year round.**

**Where** –

- Rake loose leaves to the curb but avoid placing them in the street.
- Pile leaves away from storm drains and water meter covers.



**How** - Remove stones, litter, branches or other debris that may damage equipment. Never park your car on a leaf pile – it's a fire hazard!

## Christmas Tree Collection Service

Live Christmas trees are collected free of charge in January and February and recycled along with brush.

### Set-Out Requirements

**What** – Live Christmas trees (no artificial trees)

**When** - Wednesdays in January and February (except City designated holidays). Trucks collect between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Where** – Place trees in the right-of-way but behind the curb and separate from regular trash and recycling.

**How** - Remove all decoration, rope, plastic, etc. Trees will not be collected if they are not prepared properly for recycling.

# Other Solid Waste Services

## Recycling Center

This self-serve facility provides a convenient place for residents and businesses to drop off commonly recycled items. No trash is accepted at this facility.

**Location:** 217 Gordon Road (near the intersection of Route 7 and Shreve Road)

**Hours:** Seven days a week from 7 a.m. to dusk.

### DROP-OFF

**Scrap Metal** - Items small enough to self-load into the container.

- Include: siding, bed frames, fencing, chairs, shelves, tire rims, ladders, pipe, microwaves, coat hangers, and other items made of metal.
- Do not include: non-metallic items, air conditioners with refrigerant, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, electronics, tires, items containing gas, oil or other hazardous material.

**Mixed Containers** - Plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage cans, and wide-mouth plastic containers such as yogurt tubs. Rinse items and remove from plastic bags.

**Mixed Paper and Cardboard** - Flattened cardboard, colored paper, office paper, junk mail, paperboard (cereal boxes, cracker boxes etc.), phone books, paper back books (books in good condition may be donated to the Mary Riley Styles Public Library for resale). Remove items from plastic bags.

**Newspaper** - Newspaper and inserts. Remove items from plastic bags.

### PICK-UP

**Leaf Mulch** - Self-load leaf mulch. Bring containers and tools.



# Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) refers to used or leftover contents of consumer products that contain materials with one of the four characteristics of a hazardous waste: toxic, ignitable, corrosive or reactive. HHW items such as cleaners, automotive fluids, herbicides, pesticides, oil-based paints, and thinners should not be disposed with regular trash.



## Bring HHW for free to:

- The permanent collection facility at the Fairfax County I-66 Transfer Station (4618 W. Ox Road)  
Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday  
For more information call [703-324-5068](tel:703-324-5068) (TTY 711)
- The City of Falls Church annual HHW Collection event  
Event held every summer  
For more information call [703-248-5160](tel:703-248-5160) or visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov)

Improper disposal of even a small amount of hazardous waste can have major adverse impacts on air, water, and soil and may result in death or serious bodily injury.

For more information visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov) or call [703-248-5160](tel:703-248-5160).

Rechargeable batteries and cell phones may be dropped off for recycling at City Hall, 300 Park Ave. Enter through the Police Department and place items in the box under the dispatcher window.

## DO NOT TRASH



Rechargeable batteries, button batteries, fluorescent bulbs (tube or compact)

## OK TO TRASH



Dried up water-based paint in cans, alkaline batteries, fertilizer, shoe polish

## Free Mulch Program

The leaves vacuumed from streets in the fall are processed into leaf mulch available to customers in early spring each year. Leaf mulch enriches soil, retains moisture, and provides important nutrients for plants, trees and shrubs.

Mulch is available for self-haul at the Recycling Center, 217 Gordon Road, seven days a week, 7 a.m. to dusk while supplies last. Bring tools and containers for loading.

The City of Falls Church is evaluating options for providing more services related to the leaf mulch program. For up-to-date information call the Solid Waste Hotline, 703-248-5160, or visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov).

### How to Mulch

Apply mulch:

- As wide as the tree canopy
- Two to four inches deep
- With space between the mulch and the tree trunk
- DO NOT mound mulch into a “volcano” as this may block the transfer of oxygen and water to the tree’s surface roots.



**YES**



**NO**

# Managing Yard Waste at Home

## Grasscycling

Cut it high and let it lie! Save time and money by leaving grass clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings are about 80% water and decompose quickly releasing valuable nutrients back into the soil and eliminating the need for chemical fertilizers.

**The average lawn produces eight tons of clippings per acre per year!**

## Backyard Composting

Composting yard waste is easy and safe as long as it is done properly. Place a compost bin or enclosure in a well drained area that receives some sun.

### **What goes in the compost bin:**

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Wilted flowers
- Small trimmings
- Coffee grounds

### **What does not go in the compost bin:**

- Food waste
- Diseased or insect ridden plants
- Weeds
- Dog or cat feces
- Large woody trimmings

Add about equal parts green waste (grass clippings and plant trimmings) and brown waste (leaves and twigs). Every two to three weeks, turn compost and add water until the compost is a “spongy” consistency. After about six months, harvest compost by digging down to the bottom center of the pile.

Food waste composting is more complicated and requires a fully enclosed, “off the ground” compost bin and correct ratios of brown waste and green waste in order to keep uninvited guests away! Never compost meat, dairy, fats or oils.

To learn more about home composting visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov) or take a “Composting for Beginners” class. Call 703-248-5176 (TTY 771) for more information.

# Special Events

## Recycling Extravaganzas

Recycling Extravaganzas are special collection events held for items not routinely collected through the curbside program.

**When:** Yearly in April and September

**Where:** Recycling Center and Property Yard, 217 Gordon Road

**Who:** Residents of the City of Falls Church and surrounding area

**What:**

- Clothing and textiles: clothing (even worn-out items), belts, handbags, hats, paired socks, paired shoes, drapes, sheets, towels, fabrics, etc.
- Electronics: computers and computer components, printers, fax machines, copiers, TVs, VCRs, telephones, cell phones, answering machines, etc.
- Bicycles and sewing machines: Adults' and children's two-wheel bikes and working sewing machines. A \$10 donation is requested for shipping to developing countries by Bikes for the World. No frames or tricycles please.
- Printer cartridges: inkjet, laser, and fax machine cartridges.
- Eyeglasses and hearing aids: reading glasses, sunglasses, prescription glasses, frames and hearing aids.
- Medical supplies: canes, crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers. No shower chairs or bathroom chairs accepted.







Solid Waste Hotline: 703-248-5160

[www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov)

Department of Environmental Services  
300 Park Avenue, 100W  
Falls Church, Virginia 22046



**Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability**

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711).

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