



Columbus, Georgia

Georgia's First Consolidated Government

P. O. Box 1340, Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340

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**For Immediate Release:
July 19, 2024**

Waste Collection Policy Effective Monday, September 9, 2024

Residential Household Waste:

Effective Monday, September 9, 2024, "All Household Waste must be in a city issued Black or Brown City Issued Cart". All bulk waste that is not in the City issued, Black or Brown Cart, will require citizens to call 311 for a scheduled pickup. Scheduled pick-ups may occur on the same day as your household waste collection day or on a different day.

Making this change will eliminate the need for a second, antiquated truck with driver and two inmates, to follow the automated side loading truck to collect the ground trash that the side loading truck is unable to collect. Also, this change will allow the drivers of the second truck to return to yard waste collection, resulting in the elimination of waste collection drivers working six days per week/10 hours each day for 60 hours each week.

Our current collection system is inefficient, expensive and exhausting for our waste collection operators. This new policy/collection process will help with retention, will allow our Waste Collection division to implement the best industry standard for waste collection that is used in progressive cities across the country, reduce excessive overtime expense, and will allow our Operators to spend more time with their families.

Note: Residents who have requested to purchase a Brown Cart will start to receive them via delivery on Saturday, July 20, 2024, and in the following weeks. The \$55.00 cost for the cart will be added to a future water bill received from the Columbus Water Works.

Residential Yard Waste:

There is no change in the yard waste policy. However, yard waste pickup will return to your normal day effective September 9, 2024. If your original day was on Monday or Tuesday, your collection day will return to a Monday or Tuesday, no Wednesday collection. If your original day was on Thursday or Friday, your collection day will return to Thursday or Friday, no Saturday collection. **Again, this change is effective Monday, September 9, 2024.**

Note: A second cart system for yard waste will be offered soon. We will be ordering additional yard waste carts. Once those carts are received, the second yard waste cart system/policy will be implemented.

Bulk solid waste as well as bulk yard waste/large piles will require a call to 311 for a requested scheduled pickup. If the bulk yard waste is a cut down tree, a request for a Tree for Fee pick up is required. Our policy will not allow this type of collection without the resident requesting and authorizing the Tree for Fee Collection.

As a reminder, all limbs cut for the city to collect must be no longer than four (4) feet in length and no wider than six (6) inches in diameter. Any limbs exceeding these dimensions will not be collected.

There is no change in the tree for fee policy/pickup:

Each load will cost \$50.00 plus the cumulative weight of each load at \$34.00 per ton.

Summary:

Effective Monday, September 9, 2024, the residential household waste policy will require all household waste to be in an authorized Black or Brown City issued Cart, or it will not be collected. Citizens will need to call 311 each time for a scheduled pickup of bulk waste outside the cart. These special pickups will occur on the same day as your household collection or another scheduled day. Citizens wanting to purchase a second cart (brown cart) for residential household waste at a cost of \$55.00 can do so by calling 311. There is no additional charge to collect from the second cart/brown cart purchased from the city. Citizens who have requested a Brown Cart/second cart will start to receive delivery of the Brown Cart this Saturday and next week. The cost of the Brown Cart will be added to your water bill in the coming weeks.

Qualified low-income residents who have applied and been approved, based on Federal Government Poverty Guidelines, will be eligible for a brown city issued household waste cart at no additional cost. Please call 311, if a second cart is needed. The cart is not transferrable and will be retrieved if the non-transferrable cart policy is violated.

Note: A second cart system/policy for yard waste will be offered soon.

For More Information, Contact:

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