

Collection Schedule

The Northern half of the County primarily receives garbage collection on Monday and Thursday with yard waste on Wednesday. All loads should be placed curb-side before 6:00AM and containers removed within 72 hours.

The Southern half of the County primarily receives garbage collection on Tuesday and Friday with yard waste on Wednesday. All loads should be placed curb-side before 6:00AM and containers removed within 72 hours.

Residential waste collection normally occurs between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. There is no residential waste collection on weekends.

Holiday Hours Schedule

There will be no residential collection service on the following holidays:

Monday, January 1, 2007	New Years Day
Monday, May 28, 2007	Memorial Day
Wednesday, July 4, 2007	Independence Day
Monday, September 3, 2007	Labor Day
Thursday, November 22, 2007	Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday, December 25, 2007	Christmas Day

If regular collection service falls on one of the above holidays, your garbage, yard trash or recyclables will be picked up on your next scheduled collection day. Example: If your collection days are Monday and Thursday, and the holiday falls on that Thursday (example: Thanksgiving), your trash will be picked up the following Monday.



Solid Wste Division
10 Environmental Loop
Winter Haven, FL 33880



2008
HOW-TO GUIDE
for residential solid waste

Keeping Polk County Beautiful
Important information about
Polk County’s solid waste programs
and services.

Please visit our website at
www.polk-county.net



Landfill Hours

The North Central Landfill hours of operation are:
Monday–Friday 7:00AM–5:00PM
Saturdays 7:30AM–4:00PM

Holiday Hours Schedule

The North Central Landfill will be closed on the following holidays:

Monday, January 1, 2007	New Years Day
Monday, May 28, 2007	Memorial Day
Weednesday, July 4, 2007	Independence Day
Monday, September 3, 2007	Labor Day
Thursday, November 22, 2007	Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday, December 25, 2007	Christmas Day

The North Central landfill is located at:
7399 DeCastro Road
Winter Haven, FL 33880
(Between Lakeland and Winter Haven, 4.5 miles east of Hwy 98
South on Highway 540 or Winterlake Rd.)





Introduction

Residents who are not provided curbside service should check with their complex manager for information on collection schedules and locations to take garbage, recyclables and other items for pick up.

This guide provides important information about Polk County's solid waste programs and services. The information contained in this guide is intended for residents living in the unincorporated are of the county—not the cities. Residents who live in a city or town may contact the city or town in which they live for program information.

City contact information:

- Auburndale 965-5500
- Bartow 534-0181
- Davenport 419-3300
- Dundee 419-3114
- Eagle Lake 293-4141
- Frostproof 635-7862
- Ft. Meade 285-1119
- Haines City 421-3777
- Highland Park 676-3456
- Hillcrest Heights 638-2732
- Lake Alfred 291-5275

- Lake Hamilton 439-4800
- Lakeland 834-8773
- Lake Wales 678-4182 x290
- Mulberry 425-1125
- Polk City 984-1375
- Winter Haven 291-5757

Frequently asked questions:

How do I get a garbage container?

see pg.

How do I prepare yard waste for collection?

see pg.

What goes in the recycling bins?

see pg.

How do I get rid of a computer or television?

see pg.

Who do I call for appliance pick-up and how do I prepare it?

see pg.

How do I dispose of paint, pesticides and toxic waste?

see pg.

What is the holiday collection schedule?

see pg.

How do I get rid of my moving boxes?

see pg.



Administration office located at:

10 Environmental Loop
863 284-42319
Winter Haven, FL
33880

Office Hours:

Monday–Saturday
8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Overview

The Mission of the Solid Waste Division is to provide excellent service to Polk County Residents, add value to our employees, protect the environment, and reduce operating costs through the effective use of resources.



Polk County adopted an ordinance which provides universal garbage collection. One company, Florida Refuse, is currently contracted to provide collection services of household waste twice a week and yard waste once a week. Property owners are assessed an annual collection and disposal fee through their property tax bills for this service.

Residents are assisted in proper disposal of household hazardous waste through the Mobile Used Oil and Paint Collection Program. Household hazardous waste is accepted at the North Central Landfill. Hazardous Waste Specialists are available to assist businesses and residents with questions.

Beginning in July 1999, curbside recycling services became available to unincorporated areas of Polk County. Additionally, the North Central Landfill provides recycling centers for aluminum, glass, newspaper, plastic bottles, steel cans, and household hazardous waste.

Polk County Solid Waste Operates the following types of disposal to better service its customers:

- Curbside Collection Services (household waste)
- Class I Landfill (household garbage)
- Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill
- Material Recovery Facility (recycling)
- White Goods Processing (large appliance recycling)
- Asbestos Disposal (through appointment)
- Curbside Recycling (in densely populated areas)
- Recycling Drop-offs at the North Central Landfill
- Yard Waste Recycling (mulch)
- Tire Disposal
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Facility
- Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Collections
- Small Quantity Generator Program (business wastes)
- Paint Recycling/Giveaway Program

Contact Information:

Brooks Stayer, Polk Co.

Solid Waste Director

T: 863-284-4319

F: 863-284-4321

Postal Address:

10 Environmental Loop

Winter Haven, FL

33880



Residential Waste Collection

Waste containers must be set at curb by 6:00 AM.

Stack items neatly.

Do not mix garbage with yard waste.

Do not mix needles in garbage containers or bags.

Do not mix household hazardous waste in garbage containers or bags.

For additional information, you may contact Florida Refuse 863 665-1489 or Solid Waste Administration for assistance 863 284-4319.

Polk County Solid Waste provides scheduled residential waste collection for citizens living in unincorporated areas of the county. (Residents not living within city limits.) All households receive two garbage and one yard waste collection each week. One weekly recycling pick-up is conducted in the more densely populated areas of the county. All residents residing in unincorporated areas are assessed for this service. The county contracts with a private company for waste collection services.

Waste containers must be set at curb by 6:00 AM. The following is a list of items that your hauler will and will not accept for hauling and disposal:

Garbage/Rubbish

Waste generated from the preparation and handling of food and all paper materials and product packaging. Garbage should be properly bagged or placed in water-tight containers with individual units not exceeding 50 pounds in weight. Containers should not exceed 45-gallon capacity.



on

Yard Waste

Yard waste includes lawn cuttings, tree trimmings, leaves and other green waste. Yard waste should be reduced to a manageable size with limbs neatly stacked in bundles. Place grass clippings, leaves or yard debris in bags or garbage cans.

Large or Bulky Items

Refrigerators, stoves, carpet and furniture are considered large or bulky items. These items will be picked up from curbside at no charge within 72 hours of notification to Florida Refuse 863 665-1489.

Unacceptable Items

Waste from tree removal, land clearing or construction. Cars, boats, tires, automobile parts, engines, asbestos, radioactive materials, explosives, biomedical or hazardous wastes. These items will not be picked-up by your hauler. For more information regarding the proper disposal of these items please call the Solid Waste Division 863 284-4319.

Curbside Recycling:

The unincorporated areas of the County receive yellow containers for curbside pickup one day each week. Call Florida Refuse to obtain a container.



Recycling Services

Thank you for your interest in Recycling. If you would like more information please call Polk County Solid Waste-Recycling Services at 863 284-4319.

In 1988 the Florida Legislature passed the Solid Waste Management Act to encourage Florida residents to reduce waste. The Act established a waste reduction goal of 30% for local governments to attain by 1994.

Polk County Solid Waste Division has a 50% waste reduction goal. This is primarily due to the efforts of recycling and “Waste Reduction”. Recycling Services operates by encouraging voluntary participation in one of its three main programs:

Curbside Recycling

The unincorporated areas of the County receive yellow containers for curbside pick up one day each week. The following items are accepted in the yellow recycling bins:

- All color glass bottles and jars.
- All non-food or wax contaminated paper and paperboard (flatten all boxes).
- Plastic containers #1–6.
- All metal–aluminum or steel (tin) containers.

For assistance with your curbside recycling pick-ups please call Polk County Solid Waste–Recycling and Waste Reduction Services at 863 284-4319 or Florida Refuse Service 863 665-1489.

Recycling Drop-off Centers

The Solid Waste Recycling Program collects and recycles all Glass bottles and jars, all Non–Food Contaminated Paper and Paperboard, and Plastic Containers #1–6. All recyclables other than paper should be rinsed and drained. Recycling drop–off bins are located at the North Central Landfill.

Educational Outreach Program

Touring our facilities is the best way to learn how Polk County manages Solid Waste and Recycling with an integrated disposal approach. You can visit our current disposal area in the North Central Landfill Complex unraveling the mystery of what happens to your garbage when it leaves the curb. A visit to our Recycling Processing Center will leave you with a feeling of accomplishment knowing that your recycling efforts are not wasted and your participation in the program is greatly needed. Visiting the Household Hazardous Waste facility reminds us of the things we need to clean out of our homes or sheds knowing there is a facility for safe disposal.

Local schools, service organizations and other interested parties are encouraged to take advantage of this free opportunity.

Not able to come to us? We'll come to you with our Outreach Presentation(s). Staff can provide an interactive presentation to your homeowner group or service organizations.



Did you know...

Recycling one ton of paper saves 682.5 gallons of oil, 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours.

Recycling 1050 milk jugs can make a 6 foot park bench.



Hazardous Waste

Each year Solid Waste helps prevent over 324 tons of hazardous wastes from entering Polk County's Landfill and our soil, water and air!

What is Hazardous in Your Household?

Hazardous Wastes are materials that can cause injury or are harmful if handled improperly. These chemicals pose a threat not only to people (particularly children and refuse collectors), but to our environment as well. When chemicals are disposed of improperly, they can find their way into our water systems, which pollutes our drinking water and is also digested by fish that humans eat. Wildlife is impacted since the very plant-life they depend on for survival is also polluted.

Polk County Solid Waste Operates a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program (HHWCP), and Used Sharps Collection Program to help prevent hazardous wastes from households and businesses from entering the Polk County landfill, soils, and water, and to protect the public health. The Polk County Solid Waste landfill is monitored for the presence of hazardous wastes. If hazardous wastes are



detected in the landfill we will have to clean-up the contaminated area. Clean-ups of this type are very expensive procedures. (Our last landfill contained over 6 million cubic yards of garbage.)

To keep our environment and landfill free of hazardous wastes Polk County Solid Waste offers the following programs:

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF)
- Paint Giveaway Program
- Mobile Collection Events (MCE's)
- Used Sharps Collection Program (Biomedical Waste)

(See the following page(s) for more information regarding each of these programs.)

Accepted items for the Paint Giveaway Program:

latex paint, stains, adhesives, cleaners, polishes, roofing tar, caulk

Dispose empty containers, dry paint cans, and alkaline batteries in the garbage. Commercial waste is not accepted.

Special Waste Programs

HHWCF Operating Hours:

Monday–Saturday
7:45AM–3:45PM

Closed:

Sundays, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF)

Hazardous wastes generated from households of Polk County residents are accepted free of charge at Polk County's HHWCF. The facility is located at the North Central Landfill.

Storage and Packaging Guidelines:

Items should be stored in their original container with contents clearly labeled. Do not mix chemicals. Do not put such materials in garbage cans or storm drains. Individual containers in poor condition should be placed in a plastic bucket or bag. All items should be packed in a plastic container or sturdy box.

Household quantities of hazardous waste are accepted free. Businesses, commercial enterprises, non-profit groups or anyone other than a households are not eligible for this service and must contact Solid Waste for other disposal options.

Accepted Items:

Products that have words such as danger, warning, caution, poisonous, and flammable on the labels can mean a product is toxic and should be brought to the HHWCF. Other products may have warnings such as skin irritant and use in well-ventilated area.

Unaccepted Items:

Ammunition, Asbestos (see Landfill), Fireworks/Explosives, Radioactive Materials, Biomedical/infectious Wastes (see Used Sharps Collection Program)

Paint Giveaway Program

Each month the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHWCF) receives 3,000 gallons of latex and oil-based paints and stains. A portion of this material is in good, usable condition. It is free to County residents and is available on a "first come, first served" basis. To take advantage of this program please come to the HHWCF during operating hours.

For information on safer, less toxic alternatives to hazardous household products, contact Polk County Solid Waste at 863 284-4319.

Special Waste Programs



2007 Mobile Collection Events for Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics:

February 3, 2007:

Lake Wales

9:00am-1:00pm

James P. Austin

Community Center

315 N Martin Luther King Blvd.

Lake Wales, FL 33853

March 24, 2007:

Haines City

9:00am-1:00pm

Public Works Utilities Complex

300 N 5th Street

Haines City, FL 33844

April 14, 2007:

Lakeland

9:00am-1:00pm

Polk County Health Dept.

3241 Lakeland Hills Blvd.

Lakeland, FL 33805

October 6, 2007:

Bartow

9:00am-1:00pm

Citrus and Chemical Bank

600 N Broadway Ave.

Bartow, FL 33830

December 1, 2007:

Winter Haven

9:00am-1:00pm

Chain-of-Lakes

S/W Complex

210 Cypress Gardens

Bldg S/W

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Mobile Collections Events

To assist Polk County Residents in the disposal of their hazardous wastes, Solid Waste takes its show on the road. Each of the seventeen (17) municipalities in Polk County is invited to sponsor a MCE in their town. The municipality is responsible for scheduling the date of the collection, identifying a suitable location, advertising/promotion, and traffic control at the event. Solid Waste provides the collection equipment, labor, transportation, and pays for the proper disposal of the waste. Residents of the County may participate in any MCE that they wish. All that is required is that they follow the same guidelines as listed in HHWCF Program.

HHWCF and MCE programs have served over 24,000 residents. This has led to a significant reduction in the amount of hazardous wastes entering our environment and our landfill. Over the past five years Solid Waste has annually recycled or properly disposed of:

14,000 gallons of used oil

119,285 pounds of lead-acid batteries

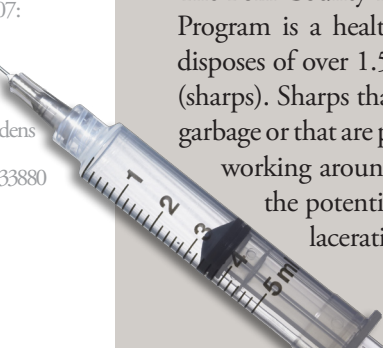
5,000 fluorescent lamps (these lamps contain mercury)

15,223 pounds of pesticides and toxic materials

Used Sharps Collection Program

The Polk County Household Used Sharps Collection Program is a health and public safety program that disposes of over 1.5 million used needles and syringes (sharps). Sharps that are thrown away with household garbage or that are placed in dumpsters may place those working around the waste in danger. Sharps have the potential to cause injury by puncturing or lacerating the skin and to spread disease.

This program was begun to



reduce the chance of injury to family members of syringe users and workers involved in solid waste collection and disposal. If you generate Sharps please visit the collection site nearest you during business hours. They will provide you with a free container or accept your full container for proper disposal. Please follow these recommended guidelines:

- Phone the site near you for their hours of operation. Most sites are open from 8:00AM–4:00PM.
- At the participating site, obtain your first sharps container or exchange your filled red sharps container with a new one.
- Place syringes in the container immediately after use. Never snap-off the needle or recap it. Always keep containers out of the reach of children.
- When making an exchange, always give the filled sharps container to authorized personnel. Never leave a sharps container unattended.
- Always make sure your container is sealed properly. For safety reasons the exchange site has the right to refuse any improperly packaged boxes.

The Polk County Household Used Sharps Collection Program is sponsored by:

Polk County Board of County Commissioners Solid Waste Division; and The Polk County Public Health Unit, Department of Health.

Sharps Collection Sites

Auburndale

Auburndale Public Health Unit
1805 Hobbs Rd.
863 965-5400
Monday–Friday
8:00AM–5 :00PM

Bartow

Bartow Fire Department
110 East Church St.
863 534-5044
Any day, 7:00AM–9:00PM
(Note: If the doors are closed, ring the bell.)

Environmental Health Unit

2090 E. Clower St.
863 519-8330
Monday–Friday
8:00AM–5:00PM

Haines City

Haines City Public Health Unit
111 W. 11th Street
863 421-3204
Monday–Friday
7:30AM –5:00PM

Lakeland

Lakeland Public Health Unit
3241 Lakeland Hills Blvd.
863 413-2620
Monday–Friday
8:00AM–5:00PM

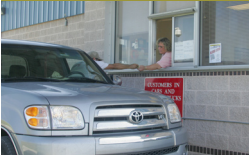
Lake Wales

Lake Wales Public Health Unit
305 W. Central Avenue
863 678-4144
Monday–Friday
8:00AM–5:00PM

Winter Haven

Winter Haven Laboratory Building
255 Avenue D, NW
863 291-5204
Monday–Friday
8:00AM–5 :00PM

Landfill



Accepted Landfill Materials:

Garbage/Trash (Class 1)
\$34.50 / ton

Yard Waste
\$20.00 / ton

Construction and
Demolition Debris
\$34.50 / ton

Refrigerators and A/C
units (White Goods)
\$25.00 / ton without
Freon
\$45.00 / ton with Freon

Tires
\$60.00 / ton without rim
\$135.00 / ton with rim

Scrap Metals
\$25.00 / ton

Asbestos (with 24-hour
advance notice)
\$135.00 / ton

* All incoming loads are subject to a \$5.00 minimum charge. All loads must be tarped. All items must be segregated. No waste generated from outside of Polk County will be accepted.



The terms “landfill” and “dump” are often used interchangeably. However, dumps are no match for the County’s modern sanitary landfills. At a dump, waste materials are heaped above ground and left exposed. At our landfills, each day’s accumulation of waste is compacted, and covered with protective soil or other material. They also contain special liners and drainage systems, both of which help protect our water and our air.

Wastes that may pose future problems for a landfill are prohibited from landfill disposal. The following wastes types are included: biomedical, radioactive, hazardous, and liquid wastes. Common prohibited wastes are: used oil, lead-acid or other batteries, pool chemicals, fluorescent lamps and poisons. Special wastes can be accepted at the landfill but require additional handling and must be separated from the other wastes. These include:

- Appliances (bulky wastes)
- Tires
- Large Drums or Containers
- Yard waste
- Recyclables
- Construction & Demolition Debris



Free mulch is available at the landfill.