

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA
SOLID WASTE DIVISION

**GUIDE TO RESIDENTIAL
SOLID WASTE, YARDWASTE
& RECYCLING COLLECTION**

Revised February 2020



CityofPuntaGordaFL.com

(941) 575-5050



This guide provides information about the City of Punta Gorda Solid Waste programs and services. We hope you take the time to read the material and abide by the guidelines set by the City. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or visit www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com.

The information contained herein applies to only those residences located within the city limits of Punta Gorda. Residents of the unincorporated areas of Charlotte County should contact Waste Management at (941) 629-1106, or Charlotte County Solid Waste Division at (941) 764-4360.

Residents who are not provided curbside service, such as condominiums or apartments should check with their complex manager regarding refuse, yardwaste and recycling collection schedules.

DEFINITIONS

Construction and demolition debris is waste including but not limited to, steel, glass, brick, concrete or clay or asphalt roofing material, pipe, gypsum wallboard and lumber, resulting from the construction or destruction of a structure, and includes rocks, soils, tree remains and vegetative matter which results from land clearing or land development operations for a construction project.

Garbage/Trash/Refuse is considered the accumulation of food wastes, paper products, packaging, containers, sweepings, etc., which are usual to housekeeping or the operation of stores, offices and other business places. At times, you may also find trash & garbage referred to as MSW (Municipal Solid Waste).

Recyclables means newspapers, magazines, office paper, brown paper bags, paperboard cartons, paper cardboard dairy and juice containers, junk mail, phone books, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, and tin or steel cans.

White goods means discarded washers, water heaters, freezers, refrigerators, ranges, dryers, small air conditioning units and other similar domestic appliances generated by the use of the residential unit.

Yardwaste is the accumulation of lawn, grass & shrubbery cuttings, dry leaf rakings, palm fronds, tree branches or limbs, tree trunks, bushes or shrubs or part thereof, green leaf cuttings and other vegetation, generated by the nature of normal yard maintenance or trimming.

REFUSE COLLECTION (HOUSEHOLD TRASH)

Household trash is collected **twice per week**. All trash should be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pickup. Materials placed out later than 6 a.m. will not be picked up until your next collection day.

Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight. The cans shall be made of metal or plastic, with sturdy handles and tight fitting lids. 95 gallon carts are not acceptable.

Trash should be bagged inside the can to prevent any wind-blown litter during the collection process, or any leakage from wet garbage. It can also help keep animals out of your garbage.

Multi-family units utilizing dumpster collections should keep the dumpster lids closed to prevent bags being ripped open by birds or other animals.

Please keep any toys, bikes, grills, etc., away from your trash to avoid any collection mistakes.

Construction and demolition debris will NOT be collected by City crews. Disposal of the material should be arranged by the contractor or the homeowner doing the work.

The City of Punta Gorda will be changing its residential refuse service from manual collection to semi-automated. In conjunction with the new service method, the City will be purchasing rolling refuse carts for residents.



**YARDWASTE COLLECTION
(PALM FRONDS, BRANCHES & TRIMMINGS)**

Yardwaste is collected **once per week**, and must also be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pickup. Do not mix yard waste with regular household trash.

Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4" in diameter or 4' in length. These items must be tied and bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds.

Shrubbery, grass clippings and leaves must be placed at the curb in containers. Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight and must have handles. Biodegradable paper bags designated for yardwaste collection are allowed. Plastic bags will not be collected. The yardwaste is made into mulch and the plastic products could contaminate the mulch.

If you have a large quantity of yardwaste, branches, stumps, etc., you will need to schedule a special collection by visiting the Sanitation page on www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com. There may be a charge for excessive amounts, excessive numbers of special pickups or for special pickups arranged to avoid proper containerizing or bundling. Lot clearing and whole tree removal is NOT part of your regular service. You must contact a tree removal company.

SAFETY TIP! *Do not place yard waste piles near or under power lines or trees, telephone boxes, mail boxes, fire hydrants, etc. This could impede access to the yard waste materials.*

Please make sure you do trimming around your home well before any storm warnings or watches are issued. To place yardwaste out at this time could block storm drains and cause flooding, or allow the materials to become dangerous projectiles.

Real Christmas trees (minus lights and decorations) can be placed at the curb for collection on your regular yardwaste pickup day.

**CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION
(RESIDENTIAL, E-WASTE, TIRES, OIL & BATTERIES)**

Recycling is collected **once per week**. Waste Management is contracted by the City for curbside recycling collection. They use the “single stream” method of collection. This means all recyclable materials may be combined in your container.

Please put only the following materials into the recycling collection containers:

Newspapers, magazines, office paper (no shredded paper), brown paper bags, paperboard cartons, dairy and juice containers, junk mail, phone books, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, and tin or steel cans. All materials may be placed in the same container.

Moving boxes – give them away, flatten them and place at curbside on your regular recycling day or take them to the local mini transfer and recycling facility. For curbside recycling, please keep the cardboard measuring no larger than 4' x 4' pieces.

Recycle collection schedule maps are available www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com, or you can call our office for recycling information.

The following materials are not permitted to be placed into recycling bins: liquids, food, waste, fabric, wood and styrofoam.

Please **DO NOT** include plastic bags in with your recycling. The bags can get tangled in the machinery at the sorting facility and shut down the operation until the bags are removed manually.

Please visit www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com to schedule collection of the following items to be picked up in addition to your residential curbside recycling items:

Electronic Device Recycling Services: Residents will be allowed to place discarded electronics curbside for collection and proper disposal. These include, but are not limited to: computers, monitors, printers, TVs, VCRs, DVD players. They will be collected on the same day as recycling collection, but through a separate truck from recycling. An exception tag will be utilized to notify the resident, if item cannot be picked up on the same day.

Tires: Car and street size pickup truck tires (up to 25 inches in diameter) may be collected on your recycling day. You are allowed up to six (6) tires per year. Place the tires, with or without rims, at the curb on the recycling day. You do not have to schedule for this service.

Waste Oil & Oil Filters: Residents can place waste oil at the curb, as long as it is stored in a fully enclosed container. Use a self-contained container with a screw on lid for your used motor oil and a clear plastic bag for your used oil filters. Waste Pro's recycling trucks will be equipped with a special compartment to transport waste oil containers. The orange color stickers are no longer necessary.

Batteries: Non-leaking vehicle lead-acid batteries



PLEASE PLACE THESE ITEMS AT THE CURB NEXT TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING BUT NOT IN THE CONTAINER.

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APPLIANCES/WHITE GOODS

White goods are washing machines, refrigerators, stoves, dryers, water heaters and similar appliances. The appliances cannot be taken to the County Landfill along with other household trash. These items are taken to be recycled. The City handles the collection of these items, and we schedule special collections for appliances each week, usually on Fridays. Please call (9+41) 575-5050 to schedule an appliance pickup.



SAFETY TIP! For safety purposes, remove the door from refrigerators and freezers before placing it at the curb. We also ask that you remove the food from refrigerators and freezers before placing them curbside.

ALSO, do not place white goods near or under power lines, trees, telephone boxes, fire hydrants etc. This could impede access to the appliances.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Did you know that the new energy efficient light bulbs contain mercury and should be handled as special waste? Please see important information on these bulbs on the City website.

These are items that should not be placed in your household trash for collection. Items such as antifreeze, batteries, cleaners/polishers, flares, gasoline/kerosene, pesticides/herbicides, pool chemicals, mercury, motor oil, used oil filters, paint, stains and varnishes, are considered Household Hazardous Waste. You can carefully transport the items to the Charlotte County Mid-County Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facility in Murdock. (See page 10 for more information on this facility.)

NEEDLES/SHARPS

The City's home-generated Sharps Recovery Program was designed as a **FREE** community service to assist the public with a safe and environmentally sound method for disposing of used needles or "sharps". Here's how it works.

- ✓ Stop by the Public Safety Building (1410 Tamiami Trail) Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to pick up a new sharps container and instructions on its use.
- ✓ Take the container home and dispose of your used items completely intact into the sharps container.
- ✓ When approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full, permanently close the top by following the simple directions on the container.
- ✓ Once closed, return the filled sharps container to the Public Safety Building, for proper disposal and to obtain a new container.



MEDICATION DISPOSAL

A **FREE** service provided by the Punta Gorda Fire Department is the medication take-back program. The program is a responsible way to dispose of expired or unused prescription or over the counter (OTC) medicines. Residents may stop by the Public Safety Building at 1410 Tamiami Trail to dispose of these items. The receptacle is located in the lobby and is available 24 hours a day. The Charlotte County Sheriff's office at 7474 Utilites Road, Punta Gorda also has a receptacle, available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

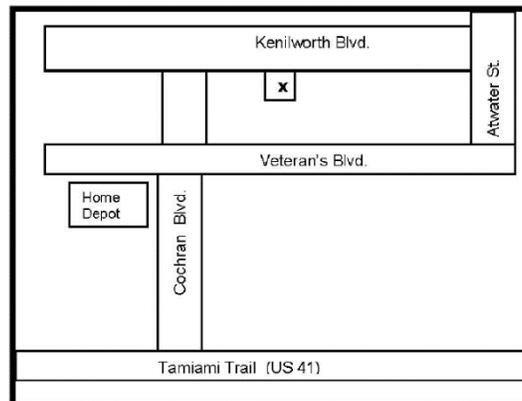


MID-COUNTY MINI-TRANSFER & RECYCLING FACILITY

This is a **FREE** facility for use by Charlotte County Residents. Proof of residency is required – a valid driver's license, utility or tax bill will be accepted. A Post Office Box address will not be accepted. It is located at 19675 Kenilworth Blvd in Murdock (Port Charlotte). It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All unloading must be completed by 4 p.m., no exceptions. For more information on this facility, or a complete list of items accepted, please call the Charlotte County Solid Waste Services at (941) 764-4360 or visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.com.

Reuse Store: CARE (Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies) sells discarded, useable household items. Donate to CARE, rather than discard, and the sales proceeds help victims in Charlotte County.

Chemical Reuse Shop: Take home anything from motor oil to furniture polish to house paint for FREE. Residents must sign a waiver of liability to receive the products.



From Punta Gorda:

Drive 41 North to Cochran Blvd. Turn right onto Cochran, continuing past Home Depot. Continue on Cochran Blvd. across Veteran's Blvd. to Kenilworth Blvd. Turn right on Kenilworth to the Mini Transfer Station.

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City offices observe the following holidays each year:



New Year's Day (January 1)
Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (Third Monday in January)
Washington's Birthday (Third Monday in February)
Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
Independence Day (July 4)
Labor Day (First Monday in September)
Columbus Day (Second Monday in October)
Veterans Day (November 11)
Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November)
Christmas Day (December 25)

Press Releases are issue when holiday closures affect refuse, recycling and/or yardwaste collection.

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Animal Control (Charlotte Co.)	833-5684
Charlotte Co. Co-op Extension	764-4340
Charlotte Co. Public Works	575-3600
Charlotte Co. Sheriff	639-2101
Charlotte Co. Utilities	964-4300
Cooper St. Rec. Center	639-3034
Florida Power & Light	639-1106
Health Department	743-1266
Punta Gorda Library	639-2049
Mosquito Control	764-4370
Post Office	800-275-8777
Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce	639-2222
Punta Gorda Fire Dept	575-5529
Punta Gorda Police Dept	639-4111
Waste Services	833-9201
Zemel Road Landfill (Charlotte Co.)	764-4360

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