

HOUSTON COUNTY SANITATION DEPARTMENT

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE & TRASH COLLECTION POLICY

I. DEFINITIONS

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

DEFINITION OF TRASH: Trash is defined as large cardboard boxes, toys, household furnishings, carpet, remodeling debris and appliances.

DEFINITION OF LIMB/YARD DEBRIS: Limb/yard debris is defined as any of the following: tree limbs, shrubbery, grass trimmings, leaves, and pine straw.

Please see Section VIII. for the procedure for having Trash and Limb/Yard Debris picked up and the charges for pick up 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 and 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. Additional bags or 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.

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 \$15.00 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 retrieved 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 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 seventy-five dollar (\$75.00) NON-REFUNDABLE, one-time rental fee per extra container.

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 three days or longer, 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 pick up that day. And some of the holidays are considered working holidays, which means the garbage pickup day will remain the same for that week.

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.houstoncounty.org under ► Departments ► Sanitation Pickup ► Holiday Pickup Schedule.

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

- New Years 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 (see definitions) can be picked up at a residence, but there will not be a set date or time for this service. Trash will be picked up in as timely a manner as possible, but at the discretion of the Houston County Sanitation Department. Please call the Sanitation Department ([334-793-5442](tel:334-793-5442)) and place a trash, construction debris, or limb pickup work order. 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.

Pickup Charges for Trash, Construction Debris, and Limbs / Yard Debris

Please note: Trash, Construction Debris, and Limbs / Yard Debris that is generated by a contractor will not be picked up by the Houston County Sanitation Department. Disposal of contractor generated debris is the responsibility of the contractor.

Minimum Charge	\$50.00
Half Truck Load	\$75.00
Full Truck Load	\$150.00

- *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 note the following guidelines for limb pickup:

1. The limbs must be cut into lengths not to exceed 5 feet.
2. Limbs and other yard debris **must not** be mixed with Trash or Garbage.

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, sign posts, 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. County crews will pick up one pick-up truck load or less of residential Trash per trip (or once per week).
6. The County **will not** pick up tree stumps or debris from land or lot clearing.
7. The County **will not** pick up batteries, tires, or propane tanks.
8. Burning is not allowed on County right-of-ways. The Sanitation Department will not pick up any burn debris.