How Our METRO SERVICES Work For You

- Garbage Services
- Recycling Services
- Yard Waste Services
- Bulk Waste Services
- Education and Outreach
- Enforcement and Licensing
- Street Sweeping
- Litter Removal Services

Department of Public Works
Solid Waste Management Services and Waste Management District
Dear Metro Resident:

Reducing, reusing and recycling of materials are essential for all communities. Proper handling of waste prevents disease, improves community pride through nuisance reduction and increases property values. Louisville Metro ensures proper sanitation by requiring the owner of every residence and the owner and occupant of every commercial or industrial establishment to provide for disposal of all solid waste generated by either employing the services of a licensed solid waste collection and disposal service or through municipally provided services.

Collection services differ based on the type and location of property. For easy reference, check the color guide below to find the color that represents your neighborhood within Louisville Metro. The color at the edge of each page tells you if the information applies to you. Yellow and blue-striped information applies to everyone.

### Quick Reference Edge Guide

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Please take full advantage of the services offered for your area of Louisville Metro. If you need additional information or have questions, please telephone MetroCall at **311** or **574-5000**, visit our website at [www.louisvilleky.gov/public-works](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/public-works).
Garbage Collection

The Solid Waste Management Services Division provides once a week collection of garbage, recyclable materials, and yard waste from residential buildings, having eight or fewer units, condominiums, and small businesses generating less than six containers of garbage per week.

Residential apartment buildings having nine or more units and businesses generating seven or more containers of garbage per week are required to contract with a private waste hauler, regulated by the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Waste Management District. See the section related to contracting with a private hauler for more information.

We use both automated waste collection vehicles that pick up garbage carts with mechanical arms and semi-automated vehicles in which workers manually pull the cart to the rear of the truck and place it on a power driven flipper.

The department supplies each home owner with one solid black 95 gallon or 68 gallon roll cart for garbage and one orange 18 gallon bin for recycling at no charge. Larger 95 gallon recycling carts can be purchased. When you move you may take any purchased containers with you. The containers provided at no charge must remain at the property.
Collection Schedule

Garbage, recycling, and yard waste are collected year round once a week on a Monday through Friday schedule.

To find your collection days use the MyLouisville tool at the bottom of the page on the Louisville Metro website louisvilleky.gov.

Collection Holidays

New Year’s Day
Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday
Memorial Day
Independence Day

Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday after Thanksgiving Day
Christmas

All collections scheduled for the day of a weekday holiday are shifted to the following day. All collections for the remainder of the week are then delayed by one day.

Note: The Holiday Schedule is subject to change.

Containers must be set out no earlier than 4:00 PM the day before collection and no later than 6:00 AM on collection day. They must be removed from the street or alley no later than 4:00 PM the day after collection.
Garbage Guidelines

- Each garbage cart must be positioned so that the arrows on top points toward the street, at the edge of the curb or alley and at least three feet away from other carts, walls, buildings, poles, etc. – do not block sidewalks.
- All items must be inside the cart. This prevents animals from spreading litter, injuries to crew members, and ensures the mechanical arm can extend and service the cart without spilling.
- Carts must not weigh more than 200 pounds when loaded. Overloaded carts can crack especially in winter when it is cold and the plastic becomes brittle.
- Keep the lid closed to keep rain water and animals out and keep odors in.
- Animal waste should be placed in a plastic bag prior to placing it in the cart. Human waste is not permitted.
- Syringes should be placed in a rigid container with a tight-fitting lid prior to placement in the waste container.
- Household hazardous waste (including medical waste) or liquid paint may not be set out for collection. (See paint disposal under Household Hazardous Materials on page 16.)
- Broken glass should be placed in a rigid container before being put into the cart or can.
- Tires are not permitted.
- Wash the cart periodically with soap and water.

How to set out your container...
Garbage collection by day

Recycling Collection

Louisville uses single stream recycling, a method that does not require different materials to be sorted into different bins. We have also made it simple to know what can be placed in your bin.

What’s Permitted

- Paper and cardboard (anything that tears)
  - Flatten what you can to save space
  - Cardboard pieces may go beside or under bin
  - Collect loose papers in a bag or place in bottom of bin
- Plastic (#1 through #7), glass, aluminum and steel containers
  - Drain liquids from all containers prior to putting them in the cart

What’s Not Permitted

- No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, drinking glasses/mugs, oven/cooking glassware or pottery
- No pots, pans, coat hangers, or paint cans
- No medical waste such as syringes or needles
- Plastic grocery bags should go back to your grocery store for recycling. Do not put them into your bin
Do not use plastic bags or garbage cans for recyclables
  - Additional bins may be purchased at forms.louisvilleky.gov/Curbside-Services.aspx. You may set out as many bins as needed

**Yard Waste Collection**

There is no limit on the number of containers of yard waste that may be set out for collection.
- Yard waste must be set out in acceptable containers (see page 22).
- No household waste may be mixed with grass, leaves, or other yard waste.
- Woody waste (such as tree limbs and shrub trimmings) must be less than 2 inches in diameter, cut into 4-foot lengths and securely tied into bundles light enough to be easily handled by one individual.

Residents who meet federal low income guidelines and are enrolled in the Community Action Partnership program may qualify for free reusable containers. For more information contact (502) 574-1157.

**Recycling and Yard Waste collection by day**
Junk Collection

Three times a year, the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Services provides USD residents with free disposal of bulk waste items such as mattresses, furniture, appliances and up to four tires through a program called Project Pickup.

To find your collection dates, use the MyLouisville tool at louisvilleky.gov/city-services/mylouisville. Citizens can also sign up to receive automatic reminders on your cell phone or email for junk set-out at the above web address.

Project Pickup Guidelines

- There is no limit to the number of items that may be set out but all items must come from the household where they are set out. Importing junk from other properties is prohibited.
- Junk can only be set out for collection during the announced 3 day period (Friday-Sunday) before the collection week. Junk set out after this set out period will not be collected.
- Items must be set out near your normal garbage collection point.
- Small items must be bundled or put in plastic bags. Each bag or bundle must weigh less than 60 pounds. **Do not use waste cans or cardboard boxes. Material in cans or boxes will not be collected.**
- Tree branches and brush can be set out separate from other junk and must be no greater than 4 inches in diameter and be cut into four foot lengths and kept separate from other items. Woody waste is collected by a second vehicle and recycled into compost. Yard waste such as leaves or grass clippings should be set out on Yard Waste Day separate from your junk.
- **Four tires** per residence can be accepted however they must be separate from other junk and will be collected by another vehicle.
- Construction or demolition debris, auto parts or 55-gallon drums are not accepted.
- Appliances will be collected. Doors must be removed from refrigerators and freezers.
- No hazardous materials such as fluorescent light bulbs, motor oil, batteries, paint, gasoline, antifreeze, pool chemicals or lawn chemicals are not accepted (See Household Hazardous Materials section on pages 16-17 for proper disposal information).
- Televisions and computers will not be accepted (See electronics on page 18).
Central Business District (CBD) Collection

The CBD is comprised of the area generally bound by Hancock on the east, Fifteenth Street on the west, Broadway on the south and the Ohio River on the north.

Louisville Metro utilizes a Wet-Dry collection system within this district. The program, which is for businesses and residents, allows up to 90 percent of potential waste to be diverted from landfills through recycling.

It involves separating food, liquids, tissues, towels and other “wet” waste from all of the other “dry” materials so that the dry materials and separated organics can be recycled.

For most that means wet waste is isolated in black plastic bags before going into the same bin where dry waste is placed loosely or in clear bags. In the case of restaurants, food waste goes into a separate bin and is converted into high quality compost.
Any business that chooses not to utilize the waste containers from the city must contract with a private collector or otherwise assure proper legal removal and disposal of solid waste from its premises.

For more detailed information about the Wet-Dry Recycling Program phone 574-3571 or go to louisvilleky.gov/government/public-works/central-business-district-wet-dry-recycling.

Collection Guidelines
- Containers are emptied by collection crews seven days week – Monday through Friday after 7:00 PM and Saturday – Sunday before 5:00 PM.
- Roll carts may be out for collection no earlier than 3:00 PM and must be removed before 8:00 AM the following morning.
- Carts set out for collection must be placed as close as possible to the collection point (curb/street/alley) to ensure efficient collection.
- Do not place paint, yard waste, flammable materials, ashes, charcoal or other hot materials in the carts.
- Do not place hazardous or medical waste in the carts.
- When you move, you may take any purchased container(s) with you. The two carts provided at no charge must remain at the property.

Street Sweeping

Street cleaning is scheduled from March through November. During this period, curbed neighborhood streets are generally cleaned three times. Exceptions to this schedule are made for neighborhood festivals or special events. From December through February, street cleaning is determined by weather conditions.
- Street cleaning signs are posted prior to 5 p.m. on the business day before sweeping occurs. They alert residents that there is No Parking between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on sweeping day.
- Sweeping is conducted each day on east/west streets only or north/south streets only to allow residents to find alternate parking.
- Vehicles parked in No Parking areas are subject to citation and/or towing.
- Residents should not park in affected areas until after 5 p.m. even if it appears an area has been swept, as sweepers may return before that time.
- The No Parking zone covers both sides of the street, though signs may only be posted on one side.
Bike Lane Street Sweeping
The department of Public Works is responsible for sweeping shoulders and bike lanes on a scheduled as-needed basis.

Street sweeping by route area

Container Specifications
Requests for repair of damaged carts, replacement of stolen carts, to request additional carts, or to exchange carts can be made by contacting MetroCall 311. Before you call read below.

- For damaged carts you will be asked for the cart serial number which is located in white letters on the side of the cart and a description of damage.
- You will be asked for your name, address, and daytime phone number
- For additional carts there is a charge of $45 (68 gal) or $50 (95 gal). If the household cannot afford the additional cart, proof of income must be furnished (Federal Income Guidelines will be used). You are strongly urged to completely utilize the space in the first cart before putting waste into additional carts. Collecting recyclables in recycling bins provides more room in cart. For a list of Recyclable Materials please visit louisvilleky.gov/government/public-works/recyclable-materials.
• 95 gallon roll recycling carts are available for purchase. These carts have orange lids so the crews can distinguish between these and garbage carts.
• For faster service you can utilize the online cart purchasing by going to forms.louisvilleky.gov/Curbside-Services.aspx.
• Carts will be delivered or exchanged as soon as possible

Exemptions to Guidelines
• Residents elderly or handicapped may have difficulty using the larger carts. If this is the case you may request an exemption and be able to set your waste out in single bags. To request an exemption, you will be mailed a form to complete and be required to provide proof of physical disability (written doctor’s statement).
• If granted an exemption for physical disability, you will be notified by mail and you may set waste out in plastic bags or waste cans with lids.

County Wide Services
The services provided in this section are provided across all boundaries. These include free junk drop off of three household items, year round recycling and electronics drop off and seasonal special collection events.

Free Junk Drop off (restricted to 3 items)
Citizens having 3 or less large bulky household items such as couches and chairs, dressers, mattresses, and tables to dispose may take them to the Louisville Metro Waste Reduction Center at 636 Meriwether Avenue. (Four tires will be considered one item). Loads may only be accepted if the waste was generated in Jefferson County.

Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

The Waste Reduction Center also accepts larger loads of household junk items, tree limbs and stumps up to 3 feet diameter, tires, metal waste, household construction debris, furniture and appliances. A fee will be charged according to the size of the vehicle. A fee schedule with vehicle description is posted at the entrance.
Waste Reduction Center Guidelines

- No engine blocks, transmissions, differentials or other automobile parts.
- No hazardous materials, such as used motor oil, batteries, paint, gasoline, antifreeze, pool or lawn chemicals.
- No radioactive materials.
- No drums of any kind.
- No autos, trucks, boats, or campers.
- No “raw” waste.
- No liquids, including paint.
- No concrete, dirt, rock or gravel.
- No medical waste.
- A per tire/type fee will be charged for disposal of more than four tires. For more information, visit louisvilleky.gov/government/public-works/services/junk-and-bulk-trash-disposal.

Suburban Areas Street Sweeping

Street cleaning in the Suburban areas is schedule from March through November. During this period, major suburban transportation routes (Dixie and Preston Highways and Shelbyville, Bardstown and Taylorsville Roads) are generally cleaned three times. A total of 1,100 miles of roads are cleaned, which concentrates in three of the suburban areas – East, Central and Southwest. Street sweeping is conducted Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Signs will be posted on the roads that are being swept.
Street Sweeping Suburban Routes:

Free Recycling Drop Off Centers

Recycling conserves landfill space, energy, and natural resources. Recyclables are easily marketed and find their way quickly into new, usable products. Recycling sparks a powerful cycle of events that help us preserve our environment and responsibly manage our solid waste.

The Department of Public Works’ Solid Waste Management Services Division and the Louisville/Jefferson County Solid Waste Management District operate 13 unstaffed and 4 staffed recycling centers strategically placed across all of Louisville Metro.

Unstaffed Centers - these locations specialize in single stream recycling making them extremely easy to use. Simply pull up to the location and place your items into the dumpster. Please be sure to close the door to prevent rain water from entering the containers.
Recycling Drop-Off Locations

Metro Fire Company: 3228 River Park Drive
Metro Fire Company: 1500 South 6th Street
Metro Fire Company: 4535 Manslick Road
Metro Fire Company: 235 East Jefferson Street
Mary T Meagher Aquatic Center: 201 Reservoir Avenue
Metro Fire Company: 2900 Hikes Lane
Beechmont Community Center: 205 W. Wellington Avenue
Metro Parks Maintenance: 1297 Trevilian Way, across from Zoo
Bowman Field Driver's License Branch: 3501 Roger E. Schupp Street
Middletown Firehouse: 108 Urton Lane
Fern Creek Firehouse: 7700 Routt Road
E.P. Tom Sawyer Park: 3000 Freys Hill Road
Fairdale Fire Department: 10015 Mitchell Hill Road
Sun Valley Community Center: 6505 Bethany Lane

**Staffed Recycling Centers** - these centers are designed for source separated recycling. Items brought to the center are separated into their commodities before they are taken to the
recycling processor. These centers also accept used motor oil, used antifreeze, used cooking oil, batteries (non-rechargeable batteries may not be recycled), computers, and cell phones (televisions must be taken to the main electronic recycling facility called Cyber Cycle. For information, see CyberCycle on page 18).

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
East District Public Works Yard 595 Hubbard’s Lane
Southwest Government Center 7219 Dixie Highway
Central Government Center 7201 Outer Loop
Metro Parks Landscaping 9300 Whipps Mill Road

Household Hazardous Materials Drop Off

7501 Grade Lane
Wednesday and Saturday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Household Hazardous Materials collection, Haz Bin, is a program provided by the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Waste Management District. It provides a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted household hazardous materials which are not accepted by household waste collection or recycling centers. For more information, go to louisvilleky.gov/government/public-works/services/hazardous-materials-disposal-haz-bin.

Waste is not accepted from businesses.

Acceptable Materials
Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides
Fertilizers
Lawn/garden chemicals
Swimming pool chemicals
Driveway sealers
Gasoline, including gas/oil mix
Kerosene
Solvents and degreasers
Mildew remover’s
Asbestos floor tiles
Fluorescent light bulbs
Mercury thermometers and
Thermostats
Nail polish and removers
Mothballs
Furniture polishes and waxes
Metal polishes and rust removers
Oven and drain cleaners
Batteries- auto, household, hearing aid/watch
Automotive fluids
Mineral spirits/turpentine
Varnishes and stains
Wood preservatives
Oil based paint or lead paint
Propane tanks (1 lb. to 20 lb. grill tanks)
Cleaners- bathroom, rug, upholstery, all-purpose spot removers

**Unacceptable Materials**

- Containers larger than 5 gallons or 40 pounds
- Fire extinguishers
- Freon
- Latex paint
- Radioactive materials, including smoke detectors

**Latex Pain Disposal**

Water-based or latex paint is not a hazardous waste and is not accepted at the Haz Bin, however, it cannot be included with household waste in liquid form. If there is only a small quantity of paint in the can, remove the lid and let stand in a well-ventilated area away from children or pets until dry. For larger quantities of paint, or to speed up the drying process, stir in an absorbent such as kitty litter, sawdust, vermiculite, or shredded paper. Containers with dried latex paint (without lid) can be placed in tightly sealed plastic bags and placed in garbage container for pickup.

**Litter Removal**

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Waste Management District provides litter cleanup funded by the Kentucky Pride Fund. The program, conducted in partnership with the Department of Public Works, Brightside, Metro Council, and the Department of Corrections, includes inmate cleanup crews, education and outreach programs, and municipal cleanup.

One Bright City is a volunteer driven program administered by Brightside with collection provided by the Department of Public Works. The program assesses cleanliness on a scale of 1-4 (with 4 being highly littered), at 260 sites across Louisville Metro’s 26 Metro Council Districts. The program helps direct neighborhood cleanups, community wide cleanups, and city collection of litter. To become a volunteer, contact BrightSide at 574-2613, or sign up online at jotform.us/form/43365956832162.

**Special Collection Events**

**Semi-Annual Junk and Bulk Waste Drop-Off Event**

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Waste Management District, in partnership with local disposal landfills, provides twice-a-year junk and bulk waste drop-off events for households in the Louisville Metro area. While this junk drop-off is primarily intended to serve residents of the Suburban Areas without curbside junk collection, it is open to all residents of Louisville Metro. Bulk waste from businesses is not accepted.
The free drop-offs will be announced in advance and are generally held in April and October. The drop-offs will accept bulky junk items such as appliances, furniture, mattresses, etc. Metal items will be recycled and residents are encouraged to load trucks so that the recyclable can be removed easily from other junk items. Electronics will be collected separately and taken to CyberCycle. Freon will be removed from appliances.

The drop-off will not accept:

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**CyberCycle Electronics Recycling**

Louisville Metro residents may recycle computers, cell phones and electronics year-round at the Louisville Metro **Waste Reduction Center**, 636 Meriwether Avenue. Residents may recycle three items per visit at no charge during normal operating hours, which are **Tuesday through Friday 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM and on Saturday from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM**. Businesses may dispose of their electronic equipment at the Waste Reduction Center by appointment only. Businesses will be charged 30 cents per pound disposal fee and nonprofits 15 cents per pound disposal fee.

**Dead Animal Removal**

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the removal of all dead animals within the public right of way. The dead animal crew will collect carcasses from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Louisville Metro residents may report dead animals to MetroCall.

**Christmas Tree-Cycling**

For several weeks after Christmas, the Department of Public Works, in partnership with Brightside, provides the opportunity for “live” Christmas tree recycling at several locations throughout the Louisville Metro area. It is offered curbside for about one week after Christmas in the USD. Trees must be free of plastic, lights, ornaments and stands.
Annual Leaf Drop-Off

Louisville Metro residents are offered options during the fall (generally November through December) to dispose of leaves at drop-off sites. Leaf drop-off is a joint service of Metro Public Works and Metro Parks. Only loose leaves will be accepted. Containers used for transport must be disposed of off-site by residents. The collected leaves are mulched and sent to be made into compost. A schedule of dates is determined in late September and drop-off is available Tuesday – Saturday at the following locations, on those dates.

- **Public Works Yard**
  10500 Lower River Road (at Bethany Lane)
  9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Public Works East District Yard**
  595 Hubbard’s Lane
  9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Public Works Waste Reduction Center**
  636 Meriwether Avenue
  Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
  Saturday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Lawn Care Equipment Rebate Program

The Metro Air Pollution Control District’s Lawn Care for Cleaner Air program offers rebates up to $100 to residents who buy new electric lawn care equipment. Rebates are higher for buyers who trade in or recycle old equipment. To qualify for a higher rebate, buyers must bring the old equipment to Public Works for recycling. We accept gasoline, electric and human powered lawn maintenance equipment and replacement batteries year round. We issue vouchers that can be presented to participating retailers for instant rebates (the voucher must be obtained prior to the purchase), or submitted to APCD along with the purchase receipt for mail-in rebates. The program is open to Jefferson County residents only. Proof of residency (i.e. a driver’s license) must be provided to the participating dealer when purchasing new equipment or to APCD when submitting a mail-in rebate request.

Only new or factory reconditioned purchases qualify for rebates. Only one rebate will be issued for each piece of equipment purchased.
The old equipment should be taken to one of the recycling centers listed below, before you purchase your new equipment if you are purchasing your new equipment from a participating retailer.

- Metro Recycling Center #1, 595 Hubbards Lane, accepting lawn equipment year round, Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, 896-1293.
- Metro Recycling Center #2, 7219 Dixie Highway, accepting lawn equipment March through September, Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, 933-5682.
- Metro Waste Reduction Center, 636 Meriwether Ave., accepting lawn equipment March through September, Wednesday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, 574-2887. Batteries are accepted year-round, same hours.

Metro Recycling centers will only accept mowers that are drained of all oil and gasoline. For a list of participating dealers, visit louisvilleky.gov/government/lawn-care-cleaner-air/participating-dealers. If you have questions about the rebate program please call 574-5322.

**Contract waste management services for small cities and unincorporated Jefferson County**

To ensure public health and as required by Kentucky Revised Statutes, the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Waste Management District requires residential property owners and owners and occupants of commercial and industrial properties to maintain weekly disposal services for all garbage generated. The District ensures access to this service through a licensing system of solid waste collectors. (See page 25 for more information on Waste Management District.)

Residents in the unincorporated areas can select their provider based upon a variable rate pricing structure. Residents in small cities and numerous homeowner associations may choose to provide services by contracting services, by operating a municipal solid waste management collection system on their own, or by residents in their jurisdiction contracting directly with a licensed collector.

Recycling and yard waste services (while participation is not mandatory) must be offered regardless of location or status of the jurisdiction. As this service must be offered to all property owners the District requires all licensed collectors provide these services.

If you live in a small city or belong to homeowners’ association, you should contact them first to determine how services are provided. For unincorporated areas or if your small city or
homeowners’ association does not provide collection services, please see the list of licensed haulers below. The list is subject to change without notice.

EcoTech Environmental

Hometown Hauling

Republic Services

Rumpke of Kentucky Inc.

Waste Management of Kentucky Inc.

Collection requirements for all areas of Jefferson County

Regardless of where you live, the Waste Management District has set certain rules to ensure a clean and efficient collection system. These include container specifications, setout requirements, and timely removal of containers from the collection point.

- Cart must be positioned so that the arrow on top faces toward the street, at the edge of the curb or alley and at least three feet away from other carts, walls, buildings, poles, etc. Do not block sidewalks.
- All items must be inside the cart. This prevents animals from spreading litter, injuries to crew members, and ensuring the truck’s arm can extend and service the cart without spilling garbage.
- Keep the lid closed to keep rain water, odor, and animals out.
- Syringes should be placed in a rigid container with a tight-fitting lid prior to placement in the waste container.
- Household hazardous waste (including medical waste) or liquid paint may not be set out for collection. (See paint disposal under Household Hazardous Materials on page 17.)
- Broken glass should be containerized before being put into the cart or can.
- Tires are not permitted to be disposed in landfills.
- Wash the cart periodically with soap and water.
- Check with your private hauler who may have additional requirements.
- **Containers must be set out no earlier than 4:00 PM on the day before collection and no later than 6:00 AM on collection day. They must be removed from the street or alley no later than 4:00 PM the day after collection.**
Container Specifications

Containers for the collection of Garbage

Most service providers require large capacity roll carts for the collection of garbage. Where roll carts are not required, residents must use containers that are small enough for manual collection. These containers must be less than 40 gallons in capacity, weigh no more than 60 pounds when loaded, and have lifting handles that prevent the collection crew from coming into contact with the garbage. Each container must also have a lid. Plastic bags and or paper bags outside of a container are not permitted for the collection of garbage.

Containers for the collection of yard waste

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, branches and twigs, shrubbery trimmings, Christmas trees, straw, pine needles, sawdust and wood ash.

Some collectors provide large capacity roll carts for yard waste collection. Yard waste must be placed in reusable containers that are less than 40 gallons in capacity, weigh no more than 60 pounds when loaded, and have lifting handles and a lid. Paper yard waste bags or compostable bags meeting ASTM D6400 standards may also be used. **Traditional plastic bags are prohibited for collection of yard waste.**

The best method for handling yard waste is also the cheapest. Handle your yard waste at home through a program called Love ‘Em and Leave ‘Em. See page 23 for more details on this popular program. If you still want to use a yard waste collection service the most economical methods are as follows:

**Best:** 20-40 gallon reusable container with handles and lids, weighing less than 60 pounds. This works for most people 90% of the year.

**Second Best:** Paper yard waste bags, not too full and folded closed to prevent water from getting inside.

**Still Works:** Compostable bags meeting ASTM D6400 standards securely tied.
Acceptable Containers:

- Reusable Bins
- Paper Bags
- Compostable Plastic

Unacceptable Containers:

Love ‘Em and Leave ‘Em (LeLe)

The easiest and least expensive option for yard waste disposal is what we call Love ‘Em and Leave ‘Em (or LeLe). For more information visit the website LeLeLouisville.com. It means letting leaf mulch, grass clippings and landscape trimmings remain on the ground as natural fertilizer. This will improve soil structure, provide better water retention and reduce weed growth. For example, when cutting your lawn, set your mower blade to 3 inches and mow grass when it is 4 – 5 inches tall and don’t bag the clippings. Grass clippings are about 80% water so they dry out very quickly and disappear into the lawn. You need to fertilize less since grass clippings decay naturally on the lawn and release valuable nutrients. Some types of yard waste may also be composted.

Compliance and Enforcement

The Compliance and Enforcement Division has several responsibilities and enforces Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances Chapter 51. The division focuses primarily on illegal dumping investigations and surveillance, and violations in the collection of garbage, recycling, yard waste and junk. It also provides for the licensing of landfills, waste collectors, recycling facilities, compost facilities, and junk and salvage yards. It is an essential function to ensure a proper functioning collection system and tracking the generation of all garbage, recycling, and yard waste. The unit also supports street sweeping operations by enforcing parking violations.

The most common violations cited:

1. Junk items set-out at the wrong time
2. Garbage not in a proper container
3. Containers not removed from street or alley after collection
4. Illegal dumping
5. Not having required garbage services

**Illegal Dumping**

Illegal dumping has historically been and continues to be a major problem in the Louisville Metro area, especially in areas having large numbers of foreclosures and abandoned properties. In efforts to cut down on illegal dumping, the Public Works Solid Waste Management Services Division and the Waste Management District place surveillance cameras in trouble spots across the area.

If you witness illegal dumping or you are a victim of illegal dumping contact LMPD or MetroCall. An enforcement officer will investigate the dumping and if a violator is identified the dumped debris will be removed by Metro crews and the violator will be billed. Unfortunately however, when a violator is not identified cleanup becomes the responsibility of the property owner to remove.

The unit also maintains a location where citizens can go to identify violators of illegal dumping and to upload their own images to report to the unit for investigation. Violators caught dumping illegally can have their vehicles impounded and must pay fines and for cleanup of the debris.

**Educational/Outreach Services**

The Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Services and the Waste Management District offers numerous education and outreach programs to residents of Louisville Metro which are available upon request. Types of services provided include:

- Waste reduction and recycling planning assistance for businesses, residents, special events producers, multi-unit buildings and other offices
- School programs and curriculum
- Community/neighborhood meeting, and event presentations
- Educational materials
- Information and coordination for Solid Waste issues

Topics that can be addressed include:
- Ways to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Dealing with yard waste and composting
- Specific programs in Jefferson County (i.e. Wet-Dry in the CBD, commercial dry waste, commercial single stream, organics recycling, etc.)

If you are interested in acquiring the services of the Public Education Coordinator or have general questions about any of these topics call, **574-3571**, and choose option 8.
Waste Management District (WMD)

**History and Authority:** The Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Waste Management District was created in 1991 as a Non-Taxing District pursuant to KRS 109.041(13), KRS 109.115 and KRS 67.083(3) and includes in its jurisdiction all territory within the borders of the county. The District is governed by a Board of five directors appointed by the Mayor. The Division of Solid Waste Management Services provides staff to carry out these functions.

**Purpose:** The primary function of the WMD is meeting Kentucky reporting requirements for ensuring Jefferson County is prepared to properly manage solid waste in the future. This is referred to as the Five Year Solid Waste Management Plan.

**Enforcement:** The WMD can issue civil penalties through the Code Enforcement Board as provided under LMCO 32.275 through 32.290. Sworn officers are granted authority to enforce regulation by issuing civil citations and ordering corrective actions under LMCO Chapter 51 relating to solid waste management.

**Licenses:** Landfills, solid waste transfer stations, compost facilities, recyclers, waste haulers, and automotive junk yards all require licenses that are regulated by the WMD.

**Funding:** The WMD is funded through license fees that are used to operate four staffed recycling centers, the household hazardous materials drop-off, and other projects. Since its inception, the WMD has been integral in shaping the way Jefferson County deals with solid waste.

**Key Regulations:**

- Established a universal collection system.
- Established regulations for reporting waste disposal activities of solid waste management facilities.
- Established a Host Agreement with landfills to ensure Louisville Metro has disposal capacity for at least 10 years by limiting waste that can be accepted from other counties and states.
- Adopted regulations banning yard waste from landfill disposal to extend the life of the landfill.
- Adopted regulation requiring all yard waste set out for collection is placed in compostable or reusable containers.

To read or review our current ordinances please visit [louisvilleky.gov/sites/default/files/solid_waste/solidwasteord44200525mb.pdf](louisvilleky.gov/sites/default/files/solid_waste/solidwasteord44200525mb.pdf)

**Landfill Diversion**

Landfill diversion is the process of diverting waste away from the landfill. This is often measured by a diversion rate. Jefferson County’s average diversion rate from 2010 to 2013 is 50.7%, meaning that approximately 51% of all waste generated during this time was diverted away from the landfill. To calculate this rate, the weight of recyclable materials is divided by the weight of all materials generated.
The total weight of all materials collected is currently 1,041,878 tons. Please continue to help us reach our goal of diverting 90% of materials from the landfill by the year 2042.

Other Agencies:

- **Metro Police Department (LMPD)**
  633 W. Jefferson St.
  Louisville, KY 40202
  (502) 574-7060
  louisvilleky.gov/government/police

- **Fire & Rescue**
  1135 W. Jefferson St.
  Louisville, KY 40203
  (502) 574-3701
  louisvilleky.gov/government/fire

- **Metro Parks**
  1297 Trevilian Way
  Louisville, KY 40213
  (502) 456-8100
  louisvilleky.gov/government/parks

- **Metro Air Pollution Control District (APCD)**
  850 Barret Ave. Room 205
  Louisville, KY 40204
  (502) 574-6000
  louisvilleky.gov/government/air-pollution-control-district

- **Brightside**
  527 W. Jefferson St.
  Louisville, KY 40202
  (502) 574-2613
  louisvilleky.gov/government/brightside

If you have any question regarding how to obtain services please contact MetroCall at 311 or 574-5000.

*In the instance of an emergency situation, ALWAYS contact 911.*
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