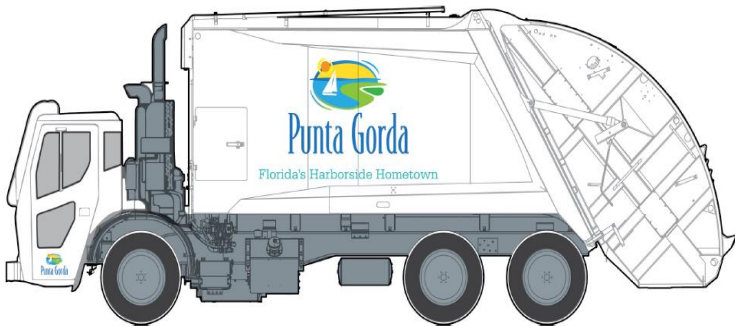


# CITY OF PUNTA GORDA SANITATION DIVISION

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

Revised September 2022



This guide provides information regarding the City of Punta Gorda Sanitation programs & services. Please take the time to read the material & abide by the City's guidelines. 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. to 4:30 p.m. or visit [www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com](http://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 must 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 & recycling collection schedules.

## DEFINITIONS

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

Garbage/Refuse/Trash is considered the accumulation of food wastes, paper products, packaging, containers, sweepings, etc., which are usual to housekeeping or the operation of stores, offices & 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 & juice containers, junk mail, phone books, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic containers number 1-7, glass bottles & jars, aluminum cans, & tin or steel cans.

White Goods means washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, freezers, refrigerators, ranges/stoves, small air conditioning units & 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 & other vegetation, generated by the nature of normal yard maintenance or trimming.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

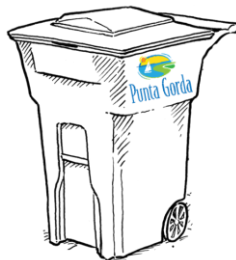
Household trash is collected **twice per week**. All trash must be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pick up. Materials placed out later than 6 a.m. will not be picked up until your next collection day.

Trash carts are available in three (3) sizes: 32-gallons, 48-gallons & 96-gallons. The carts are made of sturdy plastic, with wheels & tight fitting lids.

Trash should be bagged inside the cart 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 collection 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 cart to avoid any collection mistakes.

Construction & 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.



## YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION

Yard trimmings are collected **once per week** & must be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pick up. Do not mix yard trimmings with regular household trash. Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4" in diameter or 4' in length. These items must be tied & bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds.

Shrubby, grass clippings & leaves must be placed at the curb in yard trimming containers. Containers shall not exceed 32-gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight & must have handles. The City does not provide or sell yard trimmings containers. Biodegradable paper bags designated for yard trimmings are allowed. Plastic bags containing yard trimmings will **NOT** be collected. The yard trimmings are processed into mulch & plastic bags would contaminate the mulch.

If you have a large quantity of yard trimmings, branches, stumps, etc., you will need to schedule a special collection by visiting the Sanitation page on [www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com](http://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 & whole tree removal is NOT part of your regular service. You must contact a tree removal company.

### **SAFETY TIPS!**

- Do not place yard trimmings near or under power lines or trees, telephone boxes, mail boxes, fire hydrants, etc. This could impede access to the yard trimmings.
- Please make sure you do trimming around your home well before any storm warnings or watches are issued. To place yard trimmings out at this time could block storm drains & cause flooding, or allow the materials to become dangerous projectiles.

## RECYCLING COLLECTION

Recycling is collected **once per week** & must be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pick up. Waste Management is contracted by the City of Punta Gorda for curbside recycling collection. Waste Management uses the “single stream” method of collection. This means all recyclable materials may be combined in your recycling cart.

Please put only the following materials into the recycling cart: newspapers, magazines, office paper (no shredded paper), brown paper bags, paperboard cartons, dairy & juice containers, junk mail, phone books, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles, & plastics containers number 1-7, glass bottles & jars, aluminum cans, & tin or steel cans.

Empty & flatten cardboard boxes then place them curbside next to your recycling cart on your regular recycling collection day. Please keep the cardboard measuring no larger than 4' x 4' pieces.

The following materials are **NOT** permitted to be placed inside the recycling cart: liquids, food, waste, fabric, wood & styrofoam.

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

## RECYCLING COLLECTION

Please contact the City of Punta Gorda Sanitation Division at either (941)575-5050 or [pubworks@pgorda.us](mailto:pubworks@pgorda.us) ahead of time to schedule collection of vehicle batteries, electronic device waste, tires, waste oil & oil filters.

**DO NOT** place these materials in your recycling cart. Place the items curbside - 5 feet away from your recycling cart. The items listed below will be collected on the same day as your recycling collection, but with a separate truck.

- **Batteries:** Non-leaking lead-acid batteries from cars, boats, motorcycles & lawnmowers.
- **Electronic Device Waste:** These include, but are not limited to: cell phones, laptops, computers, monitors, printers, flat screen TVs, VCR players, DVD players, microwaves.
- **Motor Oil & Used Oil Filters:** Must be stored in a fully enclosed container. Use a self-contained receptacle with a screw on lid for the used motor oil & a clear plastic bag for the used oil filters.
- **Tires:** Car & street size tires (up to 25 inches in diameter). Residents are allowed up to 6 tires per year. Tires with or without rims can be collected.



## WHITE GOODS COLLECTION

White goods are appliances including, but not limited to: washers, dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, ranges/stoves, water heaters, small air conditioning units. White goods are usually collected on Fridays & must be scheduled ahead of time. Please contact the City of Punta Gorda Sanitation Division at either (941)575-5050 or [pubworks@pgorda.us](mailto:pubworks@pgorda.us) to schedule collection.

### SAFETY TIPS!

- Remove the door(s) from refrigerators & freezers before placing items at the curb. Everything must be removed from refrigerators & freezers before placing at the curb.
- 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

The City of Punta Gorda does **NOT** provide collection service for household hazardous waste. Residents must take their household hazardous waste to the Charlotte County Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility. It is located at 19765 Kenilworth Blvd in Port Charlotte. The facility is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gates close at 3:45 p.m. & all unloading must be completed by 4 p.m., no exceptions. (See pages 11 & 12 for more information on this facility.)

A product is considered hazardous if it is corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances. Look for key words on labels such as poison, danger, warning & caution. Items such as antifreeze, cleaners & polishes, flares, diesel/gasoline/kerosene, pesticides & herbicides, cooking oil, pool chemicals, mercury, paint, strippers, stains & varnishes are considered household hazardous waste.



## SYRINGES & HYPODERMIC NEEDLES

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

- Stop by the Punta Gorda Public Safety Building (1410 Tamiami Tr) Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to pick up a new sharps container & instructions on its use.
- Take the container home & dispose of your used items completely intact into the sharps container. **DO NOT** clip or recap the needle.
- 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 Punta Gorda Public Safety Building for proper disposal & to obtain a new container.



## MEDICATIONS

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 medicines. Residents may stop by the Punta Gorda Public Safety Building (1410 Tamiami Tr) to dispose of these items. The receptacle is located inside the lobby and is available 24 hours a day.

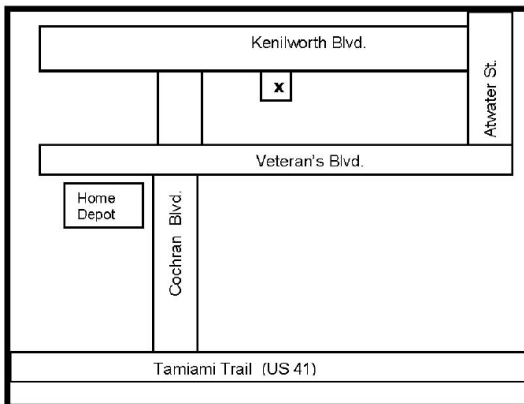


## MID-COUNTY MINI-TRANSFER & RECYCLING FACILITY

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 19765 Kenilworth Blvd in Port Charlotte. The facility is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gates close at 3:45 p.m. & all unloading must be completed by 4 p.m., no exceptions. Closed for County recognized holidays. For more information on this facility, or a complete list of items accepted, please call the Charlotte County Solid Waste Division at (941)764-4360 or visit their website at [Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facilities | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](http://Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facilities | Charlotte County, FL (charlottecountyfl.gov).).

**C.A.R.E’s ReUse Stores:** C.A.R.E (Center for Abuse & Rape Emergencies) ReUse Stores sell discarded, useable household items. Donate to C.A.R.E & 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. The Chemical Reuse Shop is located inside the C.A.R.E ReUse Store at the Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility.



**From Punta Gorda:**

Take US41 North to Cochran Blvd. Turn right onto Cochran Blvd. Continue on Cochran Blvd across Veterans Blvd to Kenilworth Blvd. Turn right onto Kenilworth Blvd.

## MID-COUNTY MINI-TRANSFER & RECYCLING FACILITY

### **Accepted Items:**

#### ***Recycling***

- Plastic containers
- Cardboard & Paperboard
- Newspaper
- Mixed paper
- Glass containers
- Aluminum & Steel cans

#### ***Special Wastes***

- Flares
- Cooking oil
- Tires with or without rims (22 inch maximum)
- Household Hazardous Wastes

#### ***Miscellaneous Materials***

- Lumber
- Wall-board & Insulation
- Furniture & Appliances
- Scrap metals: pipe & metal frames
- Residential yard trimmings

### **CITY'S 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)
- Veterans Day (November 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November)
- Christmas Day (December 25)



**City of Punta Gorda  
Public Works Department  
Sanitation Division  
326 W Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950**