



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA  
SOLID WASTE DIVISION



GUIDE TO RESIDENTIAL  
SOLID WASTE, YARDWASTE AND  
RECYCLING COLLECTION

Revised October, 2012



**This guide provides information about the City of Punta Gorda Solid Waste programs & services. We hope you take the time to read this information and abide by the guidelines set by the City. If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please contact the [Public Works Department at 575-5050](mailto:Public Works Department) , Monday – Friday, between 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or at our website: [www.pgorda.us](http://www.pgorda.us) You'll find us under the Public Works Dept.**

**Please remember this information applies only to residents inside the City limits of Punta Gorda. Residents who live in the unincorporated area of Charlotte County should contact Waste Management at 629-1106, or Charlotte County Environmental Services at 764-4360.**

**Citizens who are not provided curbside service, such as condominium residents should check with their complex manager regarding refuse, yardwaste and recycling collection schedules.**

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## DEFINITIONS



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



*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.



*Garbage can* is an impervious cylindrical metallic or plastic container with a removable metallic or plastic lid, which has two (2) handles upon the sides for lifting, a capacity of no more than thirty-two (32) gallons, and weigh no more than 35 pounds. **95 gallon carts are not acceptable.**

## DEFINITIONS

*Yardwaste Container* means a can or container for yardwaste of the same size and material as required for a garbage can or paper bags specifically designed for yardwaste.

*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, #2 black plastic plant pots and plastic containers number 1-7, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, aluminum foil and pie tins, 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.

*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.





REFUSE  
COLLECTION INFORMATION  
(HOUSEHOLD TRASH)

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Multi-family units utilizing dumpster collections should keep the dumpster lids closed to prevent bags being ripped open by birds or other animals.
5. Please keep any toys, bikes, grills, etc., away from your trash to avoid any collection mistakes.
6. Construction material will NOT be collected by City crews. Disposal of the material should be arranged by the contractor or the homeowner doing the work.



## YARDWASTE COLLECTION PALM FRONDS, BRANCHES AND TRIMMINGS

1. Yardwaste is collected once per week, and must be out to the curb by 6 a.m.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Biodegradable paper bags designated for yardwaste collection are allowed. However, no plastic bags will be collected. The yardwaste is made into mulch and the plastic products could contaminate the mulch.
5. Do not mix yard waste with regular household trash.



If you have a large quantity of yardwaste, branches, stumps, etc., please contact the Public Works Department at 575-5050 to schedule collection. 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.



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





## CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION

The recycling is collected once per week. Waste Pro is the company 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 containers.

*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 plastics containers number 1-7, clean #2 black plastic plant pots, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, aluminum foil and pie tins, and tin or steel cans. All materials may be placed in the same containers.



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 on our website, or you can call our office for recycling information.*



**NO PLASTIC BAGS PLEASE.** Also, do not put the following materials into the 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.

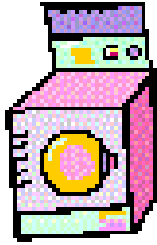


Commencing October 1, 2012 the following items will be collected, in addition to current recyclables being collected:

- **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

*Do not place these materials in your recycling containers. Please place them at the curb next to your recycling containers.*



## 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 575-5050 to schedule an appliance pickup.](tel:575-5050)

**SAFETY TIPS:** 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

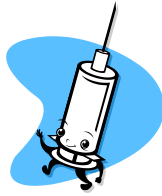
## HOW TO DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



*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, 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 17). Contact them at 764-4360.

## NEEDLES/SHARPS



- There are now 2 locations for County & City residents to pick up and drop off sharps containers – 1)The County Mini-Transfer Station (see page 16) and 2) The City of Punta Gorda Fire Dept. Office in the Public Safety Building at 1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda (Mon – Fri, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).



### **OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET**

A free service provided by the Punta Gorda Fire Department is the Medication Take-Back programs. 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.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MINI-TRANSFER  
AND 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. For more information on this facility, or a complete list of items accepted, please call the Charlotte County Environmental and Extension Services at 764-4360 or on the web at [www.charlottecountyfl.com](http://www.charlottecountyfl.com).

The Mini-Transfer and Recycling Facility accepts the following items:

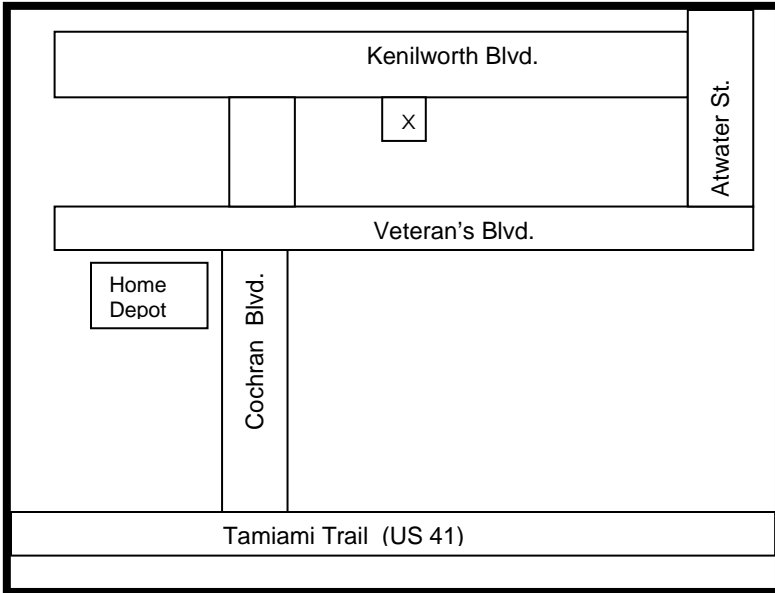
**Recycling:** newspapers, magazines, office paper, brown paper bags, junk mail, phone books, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles, and plastic containers number 1-7, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, aluminum foil and pie tins, and tin or steel cans.

**Misc. Materials:** Furniture, Appliances, Scrap Metals, Pipe, Metal Frames, Lumber, Wallboard, Insulation, Yard/Landscaping Waste.

**Special Wastes:** Household Hazardous Waste, Paints and Pesticides, Rechargeable Batteries, Used Hypodermic Needles (Sharps), Lead-Acid Batteries, Motor Oils and Used Oil Filters, Automobile and Pick-Up Truck Tires.

There is also a donation center and resale store for CARE (Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies) and a "Household Product Reuse Shop" for anything from motor oil to paint to furniture polish.





**Driving directions from Punta Gorda:**

Drive 41 North to Cochran Blvd. (formerly Toledo Blade 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.

## **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**



**The City of Punta Gorda government offices observe the following holidays each year:**

**New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King Day  
President's Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Veteran's Day  
Thanksgiving (2 days)  
Christmas (2 days)**

***The City will also issue press releases regarding holiday closures and specific household trash, yardwaste and recycling collection schedules. These may vary each year, so please check the City website or call our offices for current holiday scheduling.***

## FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Animal Welfare League	625-6720
Animal Control (Charlotte Co.)	833-5684
C.C. Environmental Services	764-4360
<b>(LANDFILL INFO)</b>	
Charlotte Co. Public Works	575-3600
Charlotte Co. Sheriff	639-2101
Charlotte Co. Utilities	964-4300
Chamber of Commerce	639-2222
Cooper St. Rec. Center	639-3034
Charlotte Co. Co-op Extension	764-4340
FPL	639-1106
Health Department	743-1266
Library	639-2049
Mosquito Control	764-4370
Peace River Wildlife Center	637-3830
PGI Civic Association	637-1655
Punta Gorda Fire Dept	575-5529
Punta Gorda Police Dept	639-4111
Post Office	800-275-8777
Waste Pro	239-337-0800
Waste Services	575-6000
<b>(Construction debris)</b>	

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326 W. Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950**