



SOLID WASTE  
**HOW-TO GUIDE**  
for Residents in Sarasota County



Garbage • Recycling • Yard Waste • Electronics • Chemicals • Appliances

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## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Sarasota County provides curbside collection services to more than 156,000 residences located throughout unincorporated Sarasota County. In addition, the county offers all Sarasota County residents the opportunity to dispose of waste items at the county landfill or at one of the three county Chemical Collection Centers. Solid Waste programs are funded from annual assessments collected through the tax bill as a non-ad valorem assessment and from disposal fees charged at the landfill.

The first section of this guide provides information on residential garbage, recycling and yard waste and how to properly prepare items for curbside collection pertaining to those homes located within unincorporated Sarasota County. Residents who live in a city or town should contact their local municipality for program information. Residents who do not receive curbside collection service should check with their property manager for information on collection schedules and pickup locations. Although Sarasota County offers a comprehensive curbside collection program, some items may require a special pickup or may need to be disposed of at one of the Chemical Collection Centers.

Need to get rid of old paint, household chemicals or electronics? The Household Hazardous Waste section lists many common items that require special disposal. All residents in Sarasota County may use the services for household hazardous waste disposal.

The Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC), more commonly known as the landfill, is located off exit 195 from Interstate 75 and provides service to residents of Sarasota County.



Are you part of a local homeowner's association or civic group interested in learning more about recycling, hazardous waste or the landfill? Are you, or a group that you belong to, looking for a way to get involved as a volunteer in the community? Educational presentations and volunteer opportunities are available through Sarasota County's solid waste division and Keep Sarasota County Beautiful.

Don't see the information you are looking for in this guide? More information is available at [scgov.net](http://scgov.net), by calling the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000 or by downloading the Recycle Coach app (Apple App Store or Google Play Store).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Unincorporated Sarasota County**

Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste

941-861-5000

[scgov.net](http://scgov.net)

### **City of North Port**

Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste

941-240-8050

[cityofnorthport.com](http://cityofnorthport.com)

### **Town of Longboat Key**

Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste

941-316-1988

[longboatkey.org](http://longboatkey.org)

### **City of Sarasota**

Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste

941-365-7651

[sarasotafl.gov](http://sarasotafl.gov)

### **City of Venice**

Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste

941-486-2422

[venicegov.com](http://venicegov.com)

### **Waste Management**

941-493-4100

[wm.com](http://wm.com)



## SOLID WASTE FACILITIES AND HOURS OF OPERATION

### Chemical Collection Center (North)

8750 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

**Administration Office** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Re-Uz-It Shop** Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Disposal** Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (Landfill)

4000 Knights Trail Road, Nokomis

**Administration** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Citizens' Convenience Center** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Disposal** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.\*

**Disposal** Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.\*

*\*NOTE: All customers unloading item by hand need to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to closing.*

### Chemical Collection Center (South)

250 S. Jackson Road, Venice

**Disposal** Wednesday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Curbside Collection Hours

Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## HOLIDAYS

All facilities are closed on New Year's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. If the observed holiday falls on a weekday, Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex operations (except for construction and demolition) and the Citizens' Convenience Center will remain open until 5 p.m. on the Saturday following the holiday. Administration and north and south Chemical Collection Centers are also closed on government holidays.

No collection service will be provided on New Year's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Collection service will be delayed one day from the holiday for the remainder of the week. Any regular Friday collection delayed by a holiday will occur on Saturday.

# RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE COLLECTIONS

Garbage, recycling and yard waste are all collected on the same day. Containers/items may be placed at the curb no earlier than 5 p.m. the day before collection and should be curbside by 6 a.m. on your collection day. Empty containers must be brought in from the curb by 10 a.m. on the day following collection.



## Garbage

Garbage must be placed in containers with closed lids, or in closed plastic bags and cannot weigh more than 40 pounds each. Items that weigh more require a special pickup and a separate disposal fee will apply. Contact Waste Management for a price quote.

Place all containers and items no more than 3 feet from the curb. Stack bags and other items neatly. Do not mix yard waste, household hazardous waste, motor oil, recyclables or needles in garbage containers or bags. Separate garbage and yard waste containers by placing them on opposite sides of your driveway, if possible. Store garbage containers beside your home or in the backyard, not in front.

## Appliances

Appliances, such as air conditioners, washers and dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers, stoves and ovens, trash compactors and water heaters may be placed at the curb for collection. Residents should call Waste Management 48 hours prior to their regular collection day to schedule a pickup.

Small appliances, such as blenders, coffee makers, paper shredders, radios, stereos, VCR and DVD players, can be placed in the garbage for disposal.

## Bulk and Oversized Items

Bulk items can also be placed at the curb and picked up for free on your regular collection day. Examples of bulk items include bathroom fixtures (toilet [remove tank from bowl], sink and small vanity), barbecue grills (remove the propane cylinder and return to a local retailer or one of the Chemical Collection Centers), carpet (cut to 4 feet in length, no heavier than 40 pounds, rolled and tied or folded and tied), furniture, push lawnmowers (remove the oil and gas) and wooden pallets no larger than 4 feet by 4 feet.

Oversized items are not included in the residential collection program and pickups for oversized waste must be scheduled with Waste Management prior to your regular collection day. Supplemental service fees may apply. Oversized items include basketball poles, bathtubs, carpet (rolls longer than 4 feet), Christmas trees (more than 6 feet tall), construction debris exceeding four 32-gallon containers, exercise equipment, garage doors and openers, glass windows and tabletops, mirrors, king-size mattresses (including box



springs), pianos and organs, picnic tables, playground equipment, riding lawn mowers (all fluids must be removed prior to pickup), sheds, sliding glass doors, sofa beds and unprepared lumber, fencing or yard waste exceeding 40 pounds, 16 inches in diameter, 4 feet in length, or debris that is not canned, bagged, or bundled and tied.

## Electronics, Monitors and TVs

Sarasota County residents may bring computer systems, fax machines, keyboards, power supplies, printers and scanners for free drop-off at one of the Chemical Collection Centers. Businesses may bring eligible electronics, including TVs and monitors, to the Bee Ridge Chemical Collection Center or the Citizens' Convenience Center for disposal as part of Project Green Sweep (charges apply).

TVs and monitors may be placed at the curb for pickup during regular weekly collection services. If TVs weigh more than 40 pounds, contact Waste Management to schedule a pickup. Requests should be made prior to your collection day. TVs and monitors may be disposed of at the Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (standard disposal fees apply).

- ▶ **Residents of multi-family complexes** who do not receive curbside collection and use commercial dumpsters are required to call Waste Management to schedule a pickup of TVs and monitors. These items should NOT be placed in commercial dumpsters.
- ▶ **Residents in the cities of Sarasota, Venice, North Port, and the Town of Longboat Key** should contact their service provider for assistance.

## Rear Door Collection

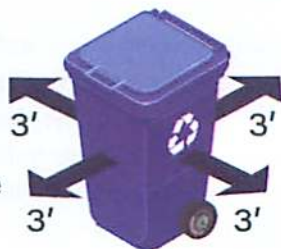
Residents who supply the county with a physician's note may have rear door garbage and recycling service provided at no charge. All other residents may also take advantage of rear door pickup for a fee. NOTE: This service only applies to garbage and recyclables. Yard waste and any large or special pickup items must still be placed curbside. To schedule rear door garbage service, contact Waste Management for an application.



## Recycling

Recycling began in Sarasota County in 1991 when a voter referendum added mandatory recycling for both residences and businesses through the county charter.

Recycling carts may be placed at the curb no earlier than 5 p.m. the day before collection and should be curbside by 6 a.m. on your collection day. Empty containers should be brought in from the curb by 10 a.m. on the day following collection. Position the cart so that the opening of the lid is facing the street and be sure to keep the cart at least 3 feet away from other objects such as



mailboxes, utility poles and cars so that the automated arm on the recycling truck can easily access the cart for service.

When loading the recycling cart, remember to place clean and dry recyclable materials loose in the cart. Items should not be contained in plastic bags. Keep food waste, hazardous waste, yard waste and non-recyclable materials out of the recycling cart. Do not overload. The lid must close completely.

## ACCEPTED MATERIALS



### CANS



**Aluminum and Steel Cans**  
Empty and rinse.



### CARTONS



**Food and Beverage Cartons**  
Empty, rinse and replace cap.



### GLASS



**Bottles and Jars**  
Empty, rinse and replace cap.



### PAPER



**Mixed Paper, Paper Board,  
Newspaper and Magazines**  
Flatten cardboard and boxes.



### PLASTICS



**Kitchen, Laundry, Bath Bottles  
and Containers**  
Empty, rinse and replace cap.

## Contamination

One of the biggest challenges communities face is the risk of contamination. Any item placed in a recycling container that is not accepted in the local recycling program is considered a contaminant. Some of the most common contamination items include food and liquids, non-recyclable plastic, small appliances and yard waste. Plastic bags and tangles (i.e. hoses, holiday lights, hangers and extension cords) tend to wrap around the recycling processing equipment and can cause massive delays for a recycling processor.

To prevent contamination, only place items accepted in Sarasota County's recycling program into the recycling container. Non-recyclable materials and materials that are not accepted in Sarasota County's recycling program have to be sorted out at the recycling facility and transported to the landfill for disposal, which increases labor and disposal costs. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!

### NOT ACCEPTED MATERIALS

*These items are NOT recyclable and should be placed in the garbage for disposal.*



**NO Non-Recyclable Plastic**



**NO Recyclables in Plastic Bags**



**NO Food and Liquids**



**NO Paper Napkins, Plates, Cups and Tissues**



**NO Polystyrene Foam**



**NO Yard Waste**



**NO Electronics and Small Appliances**



**NO Hoses, Holiday Lights, Hangers and Extension Cords**



**NO Plastic Bags, Film/Sheeting and Flexible Film Packaging**



**NO Textiles, Bedding, Rugs and Carpet**



**NO Auto Parts and Scrap Metal**



**NO Concrete, Wood and Construction Debris**



## Non-Recyclable Items:

- Broken glass
- Ceramic tiles
- Dishes and glassware
- Eyeglasses
- Flowerpots (ceramic, clay or plastic)
- Hangers
- Hard-cover books
- Lightbulbs
- Mirrors
- Packing materials
- Plastic deli trays
- Plastic toys
- Pool and other chemical containers
- Pots, pans or ovenware
- Styrofoam® and Styrofoam® peanuts
- Window glass

**Unsure if an item is recyclable in Sarasota County?**  
Download the **Recycle Coach app** and access the **What Goes Where** feature for more information.



### HELPFUL TIPS

- Empty and rinse cans, bottles and jars, and replace caps.
- Containers should be one gallon or less in size.
- Coat hangers, dishes, glassware, pans, pots and plane glass go in the garbage.
- Plastic items marked #6, plastic bags and Styrofoam should be placed in the garbage.
- Flatten all boxes.
- Remove liner and food from pizza boxes.
- Place food contaminated paper/ cardboard products in the garbage.
- Place shredded paper in paper bags only (no plastic).

## Moving Boxes

Sarasota County offers a free one-time courtesy curbside cardboard pickup for new residents. To schedule your one-time courtesy pickup, contact Waste Management.



## **Yard Waste**

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, shrub trimmings, palm fronds, small tree limbs and branches. It should be placed separately from garbage and recyclables at the curb for collection. If possible, place yard waste in reusable containers like an old garbage can. Plastic and paper bags require additional handling to remove contents prior to processing.

Remove fruit from tree branches and dispose of the fruit in the garbage. All tinsel and ornaments should be removed from holiday trees before placing them at the curb. Trees taller than 6 feet must be cut in half.

Unprepared yard waste or yard waste placed in cardboard boxes, wheelbarrows or recycling containers will not be picked up. Lumber, fencing and other treated wood is not yard waste. It should be properly prepared and placed with your garbage for collection.

### **Properly prepared yard waste should be:**

- Bagged, containerized or bundled and tied.
- 4' or less in length.
- 16" or less in diameter.
- 40 pounds or less in weight (each bag, can or bundle).





# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Common household products like aerosols, cleaners and fluorescent lamps can release toxic propellants, chemicals and mercury into the atmosphere and waterways when they are abandoned in garages, crushed in waste hauling vehicles or placed in the landfill. Most household hazardous wastes are not collected curbside. Sarasota County residents may take accepted items generated from their home that are not from business-related activities to one of the county's Chemical Collection Centers for safe disposal free of charge. Proof of county residency (driver's license, tax bill, utility bill, etc.) may be required.

## **Ammunition, Flares and Firearms Disposal**

Residents should contact local law enforcement for specific instructions on how to dispose of ammunition, flares or firearms.

## **Automotive Products**

Automotive fluids and antifreeze can be brought to one of the county's Chemical Collection Centers for safe disposal or returned to stores that accept them.

## **Batteries**

Alkaline batteries may be placed in the garbage (AA, AAA, 9volt, C, D). Rechargeable, button, nickel-cadmium and lithium-ion batteries should be brought to one of the county's Chemical Collection Centers or a local retailer for recycling and safe disposal.

## **Chemicals**

Chemical cleaning products, lawn and garden chemicals, fertilizer, pesticides and pool chemicals should be brought to one of the county's Chemical Collection Centers for safe disposal.

## **Fluorescent Lights**

Fluorescent lightbulbs and tubes contain mercury and should be brought to one of the county's Chemical Collection Centers for safe disposal. Please separate fluorescent lamps and ballast from the fixtures prior to arrival.

## **Fuels and Tanks**

Residents may dispose of gasoline, diesel, kerosene or propane tanks (up to 20 pounds) at one of the county's Chemical Collection Centers.

## Medications

Residents wishing to dispose of pills, tablets or non-liquid medications should use the permanent drop boxes located at each of the area law enforcement agencies or check with local pharmacies to confirm if they have disposal kiosks set up to accept medications, ointments and patches.

## Miscellaneous Items

Sarasota County's Chemical Collection Centers also accepts items such as automotive products, fire extinguishers, gas, paint thinner, solvents and toxic waste from residents in Sarasota County.

## Needle Disposal and Free Sharps Containers

Never place needles or lancets in your garbage or recycling containers. Sarasota County offers free needle collection containers and disposal services to residents. For program information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County at 941-861-6133.

## Paint Disposal

Sarasota County residents may dispose of unwanted paint from their residence at one of the three Chemical Collection Centers. Dried, water-based paint can be disposed of in the garbage.

## Used Motor Oil, Oil Filters and Tire Disposal

Used motor oil and oil filters may be placed at the curb for pickup during regular weekly collection services by following the procedures outlined in the Helpful Tips section or brought to one of the three Chemical Collection Centers for disposal.

Automotive tires may also be placed curbside for collection following the procedures outlined in the Helpful Tips section or they may be disposed of at the Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (standard disposal rates apply).

## HELPFUL TIPS

### Used Motor Oil

- Place in see-through plastic beverage containers (one gallon or less in size) with a screw-top cap. Empty oil containers may be placed in the garbage.
- Mark all containers with the words "used oil."
- Place used oil next to garbage containers on your regular pickup day.
- Limit five gallons per week.

### Used Oil Filters

- Place in a sealed, clear plastic bag.
- Place oil filters next to garbage containers on your regular pickup day.
- Limit five oil filters per week.

### Used Tires

- Must be 25" or less in diameter.
- May be on or off the rim.
- Limit four automotive tires per week.
- Tires may be disposed of at the Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (standard disposal fees apply).
- If your tires are not collected by 8 p.m. on your collection day, please contact Waste Management on the following business day to report it as a missed collection.





## **Community Collection**

Want to organize a community collection program? The community collection program is operated by and for your community with training and disposal assistance provided by county staff. You may set your own collection schedule where community volunteers collect household hazardous waste and then transport the waste to one of the Chemical Collection Centers for disposal on prearranged delivery days.

## **Neighborhood Collection Events**

If your residential development is at least 8 driving miles from the nearest collection center, we can bring a one-day neighborhood collection event to you. Neighborhood volunteers organize and advertise the event and participate by directing traffic and unloading vehicles. Guidance and assistance will be provided by county staff.

## **Re-Uz-It Shop**

Items brought to the Chemical Collection Centers that are still in usable condition make up the inventory found in the Re-Uz-It Shop. Rather than pay a hazardous waste company to dispose of these products, the county opened the Re-Uz-It Shop to provide these products free of charge to county residents. Shoppers must show photo identification and must be at least 18 years of age. Sarasota County reserves the right to limit quantities. Located in the Chemical Collection Center at 8750 Bee Ridge Road, the Re-Uz-It Shop is open Monday-Saturday between 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The shop is closed on government recognized holidays.

Inventory changes daily and typically includes items such as automotive products, cleaners, lawn and garden products, paint and pool chemicals.

# LANDFILL

The Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC) is centrally located within Sarasota County and accepts residential, municipal and commercial garbage from the unincorporated areas of Sarasota and from three municipalities (cities of North Port, Sarasota and Venice). Landfill operations are supported by the tipping fees collected for processing and/or disposal of materials received.

## **Sarasota County residents may take the following items to the landfill for disposal (standard landfill disposal rates apply).**

- Air conditioners (all types)
- Asbestos\* (friable or non-friable)
- Boats and boat motors
- Bulk or oversized waste
- Campers and trailers
- Construction and demolition materials
- Furniture
- Garbage and trash
- Household appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, water heaters, stoves, microwaves; doors must be removed)
- Lawnmowers, riding or push (batteries must be removed, and all fluids drained)
- Oil drums (with holes drilled in them to show they are empty)
- Scooters (batteries must be removed, and all fluids drained)
- Televisions
- Tires (on or off the rim)
- VCR/DVD players
- Yard waste

## **HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY LITTER-FREE. All loads must be covered; IT'S THE LAW!**

For safety reasons, many of the items listed in the Household Hazardous Waste section of this guide cannot be disposed of in the landfill. They should be taken to one of Sarasota County's Chemical Collection Centers for disposal.

### **Citizens' Convenience Center**

Located just inside the gates of the Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex, the Citizens' Convenience Center provides a one-stop drop off location for residents to dispose of household hazardous waste, recycling materials and garbage. Disposal rates may apply to some items.

\*Advance notice required.



## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

### Keep Sarasota County Beautiful

Established in 1987, Keep Sarasota County Beautiful (KSCB) is a countywide beautification program that initiates community cleanup projects to help keep Sarasota County free of litter. KSCB is a national affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc. and a state affiliate of Keep Florida Beautiful, organizations that inspire and educate people to act every day to improve and beautify their community environment.

KSCB hosts three countywide cleanups each year - The Great American Cleanup is held in the spring; the Liberty Litter Cleanup takes place on July 5; and the International Coastal Cleanup is held in the fall. In addition, KSCB administers the Adopt-a-Road program and hosts an annual Volunteer Awards Recognition Dinner to celebrate volunteers throughout Sarasota County who promote the KSCB mission statement and help "educate the public and promote interest and participation in the overall improvement and beautification of the environment throughout Sarasota County."

In addition to cleanup events, Keep Sarasota County Beautiful offers educational lessons to local schools and community camps. Topics include litter prevention, recycling and other methods of reducing solid waste.

### Outreach Presentations

Staff from Sarasota County's solid waste division are available to provide presentations to homeowner groups, businesses, service organizations, schools and/or camp groups. Topics include a general overview of solid waste services in Sarasota County, recycling, waste reduction, landfill operations and hazardous waste processing and disposal.





**Solid Waste**

8750 Bee Ridge Road  
Sarasota, FL 34241

