

Waste Less -- Recycle More

Introduction and FAQs (12/22/2010)

Introduction

Higher state taxes on waste buried in landfills make disposing of garbage very expensive for the City of Milwaukee. The good news is that the city earns money from the materials collected through its recycling program. We can help limit fees and save money if we all waste less and recycle more.

By charging for a second garbage cart, the City hopes to encourage citizens to throw out less and recycle more.

Effective Jan. 1, 2011, dwelling units with more than one garbage cart will be charged \$5.00 per quarter for each additional cart. To avoid the charge, please call 414-286-CITY (2489) to ask for removal of the extra garbage carts from your property. There is no charge for having more than one recycling cart. Recycle all paper, cardboard, food boxes, metal cans, and bottles and jars made of glass or #1 or #2 plastic. Flatten boxes and plastic containers to make more room in the recycling cart. To learn more about Milwaukee's recycling program, visit <http://milwaukeecycles.com/>.

Another change for 2011 is that City garbage crews will only pick up one cubic yard of extra debris that is left outside of the garbage cart. One cubic yard is about the size of an easy chair or seven full 30-gallon garbage bags. Food waste must be bagged and put in the garbage cart. To request and pay for removal of more than one cubic yard of debris, please call 286-CITY (2489). The city will pick up furniture at no additional charge only if it does not exceed one cubic yard in size.

Seasonal brush collection (April-November) remains limited to two cubic yards. This two cubic yard limit for brush remains in effect while the one cubic yard limit described above is imposed on free pickup of non-brush debris.

State law now bans electronics and used oil filters from landfills. Please do not place any of these items in the garbage: yard waste, tires, major appliances, used oil and filters, car batteries, TVs, computers and certain other electronics, household recyclables. Recycle them for free at a Self-Help Center, 6660 N. Industrial Rd and 3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

To make an online service request, visit www.milwaukee.gov/mpw and click Contact DPW. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) 414-286-2025

2011 Solid Waste Changes Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City making these changes regarding the number of carts I can have?

Higher state taxes on waste disposal have significantly increased the cost to dispose of garbage. The charge for using extra garbage carts and for outside-the-cart collection of anything above one cubic yard are steps to recover costs based on the level of service used by individual households rather than through flat fees alone. Through these charges, the City hopes to encourage citizens to throw out less and recycle more.

What is the new charge?

The charge is \$5.00 per quarter or \$20/year for each additional garbage cart beyond one per dwelling unit. To avoid being charged, households should have no more than:

Single Family	1 garbage cart
Duplex	2 garbage carts
Triplex	3 garbage carts
4-Family	4 garbage carts

Dwelling units with more garbage carts than listed above will be charged based on the number of extra carts they have.

Is a duplex considered a household?

No, a duplex is considered two households, so each dwelling of the duplex is allowed one garbage cart for the base solid waste fee without an extra charge.

What if my neighbor is using my extra cart, or, how can I know I'm being charged only for the extra carts I use?

Take ownership of your cart and paint your address on the cart. Write down the serial number of your cart or carts. The Sanitation Division conducted a field survey and maintains an inventory of garbage and recycling carts by property. If you have a question about your cart serial number, call 286-CITY.

What if I have more garbage than fits in the one cart?

Place the extra waste in bags next to the cart. You may place up to one cubic yard of additional non-food waste next to the cart. One cubic yard is about the size of an easy chair or seven full 30-gallon garbage bags. Food waste must be bagged and put in the garbage cart.

I'm ready to turn in my extra garbage cart. How do I return the cart to the City?

To return a cart, please call 286-CITY (2489) city or make an online request at the Department of Public Works website, <http://city.milwaukee.gov/mpw>. Click at the top for Online Service Request. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) 414-286-2025

When will the charge show up in my Municipal Services Bill ?

The charge will first appear on the bill you receive during the second quarter, which will be in either April, May or June 2010. Properties with more than one garbage cart will see both first quarter and second quarter charges on their second quarter Municipal Services Bill. The Extra Garbage Cart Charge will appear on the Municipal Services Bill as "Extra Garbage Cart Charge." To determine how many carts for which you are being charged, divide the total charge by \$5.00.

There will be no rebate if a cart is turned in mid-quarter. If you have an extra cart at the beginning of the billing quarter, you will be charged the entire quarter for it. There are no refunds or rebates.

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I run a business and the City picks up my garbage. What more will I have to pay?

The new charge does not apply to commercial customers or residential properties with five or more dwelling units. They already are charged per garbage container.

There is no charge for requesting and using more than one recycling cart. How do I get an additional recycling cart?

To request an additional recycling cart, please call 286-CITY (2489) or make an online request at the Department of Public Works website, <http://city.milwaukee.gov/mpw>. Click at the top for Online Service Request. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) 414-286-2025

How can I get my family to recycle more and make less garbage?

Start recycling all accepted paper – recyclable items you may not be aware of include: boxes from cereal, crackers, bake mixes and other food products, beverage carrier packs, corrugated cardboard (wavy inner layer) – including pizza boxes, toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls, paper egg cartons, junk mail and envelopes. In the kitchen, put food scraps down the garbage disposal. Put non-meat and non-dairy food scraps in a compost bin.

Why has the change been made to reduce free collection of debris outside of the garbage cart from 2 cubic yards to one?

Higher state taxes on waste disposal have significantly increased the cost to dispose of garbage. The charge for using extra garbage carts and for outside-the-cart collection of anything above one cubic yard are steps to recover costs based on the level of service used by individual households rather than through flat fees alone. Through these charges, the City hopes to encourage citizens to throw out less and recycle more.

How big is a cubic yard?

One cubic yard is about the size of an easy chair or seven full 30-gallon garbage bags.

What should I do if I have more than one cubic yard of debris?

To request and pay for removal of more than one cubic yard of debris, please call 286-CITY (2489). The city will pick up furniture at no additional charge only if it does not exceed one cubic yard in size.

How much does it cost and how is the debris charge billed?

The charge is billed through the mail to the property owner on record with the City Assessor's Office. As of January 1, 2011, there is a \$50 charge to remove neatly contained piles exceeding one cubic yard.

How do I dispose of electronics?

State law now bans many electronics from landfills. Please recycle TV's, computers, and other electronics ([click here for complete list](#)). Recycle them for free at City of Milwaukee [Self-Help Centers](#), 6660 N. Industrial Rd and 3879 W. Lincoln Ave.