Frequently Asked Questions

Why switch to an automated system?
Automated collection allows municipalities to service more households using fewer resources. The efficiencies gained save money to offset other rising costs.

Do I need to do anything differently?
Yes. You will need to change the way you set out your cart(s). Make sure to follow the setout instructions provided in this brochure.

What if my items will not all fit in the cart?
You may still set out extra garbage up to 1 cubic yard or extra recyclables on your collection day. Make sure to flatten any cardboard boxes before placing them in, on, or next to the recycling cart. The City’s Drop Off Centers are also available for disposal of extra materials. More information can be found at milwaukee.gov/dropoff

Locations are:
6660 N. Industrial Rd. and
3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

What if there’s a snowstorm on my scheduled collection day?
Pickups cancelled due to winter weather will be made up on the next workday – leave carts at collection point until serviced.

For more information and collection schedules, please visit www.milwaukee.gov/sanitation
or call 286-CITY (2489)

Automated Garbage & Recycling Collection:
What You Need to Know

The City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works is improving garbage and recycling collection. To increase efficiency and reduce costs, garbage and/or recyclables will be collected using a fully automated system in your neighborhood.

On collection days, your cart(s) must be placed at the curb or alley line with at least 3 feet of clearance on all sides.

Using a mechanical arm, the truck will retrieve carts from your collection point and empty their contents into the body of the truck. This system allows more efficient service and decreases pollution through reduced truck idling.

Place carts according to instructions in this brochure.
Effective immediately, please follow these instructions:
(See photos at right)

1. Cart(s) must be placed at the collection point by 7:00 am on the day of collection.
   a. Curb – Place within a foot of curb
   b. Alley – Place right at alley line

Serviced carts must be returned to their storage location by 10:00 pm.

2. Cart(s) must be placed at least 3 feet apart and 3 feet from other objects (garages, mailboxes, poles, trees, snow banks, etc.). As the mechanical arm is set into position, a gripper is activated that wraps around the cart.

3. Please face the cart handle away from the street. Positioning the cart(s) this way will reduce lid/cart damage and ensure all contents in the cart are emptied without spillage.

4. Please flatten all cardboard boxes. If they do not fit in the recycling cart, break them down and place on or next to the recycling cart.

Your cooperation with these guidelines is required for us to empty your carts.

Questions?
286-2489