



CITY OF FAIRFAX SOLID WASTE SERVICES GUIDE 2025

The City of Fairfax is committed to providing excellent solid waste management services and aims to minimize the amount of waste being sent to the landfill through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery.

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**Meet Rexxy the
Waste Wizard!**

See page 4 for details.

REDUCE WASTE

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

Reducing the amount of waste we generate is one of the most powerful actions we can take to protect our environment. The City of Fairfax prioritizes waste reduction strategies from most to least environmentally beneficial: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, and then disposal in trash. By following these steps at home, work, and school, we can conserve resources, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and lower disposal costs.



Reduce

The most effective way to manage waste is to avoid creating it in the first place. Small choices—like buying only what you need—make a big difference.

- Use reusable bags, water bottles and coffee tumblers.
- Choose products with little or no packaging and/or buy in bulk to reduce waste.
- Try to avoid disposable, single-use items like plastic cutlery, paper napkins, and straws.
- Plan meals to reduce food waste—store leftovers properly and use what you buy.

Reuse

Before tossing something into the trash, ask yourself if it can be used again, either for the same or a different purpose. Reusing items reduces trash *and* reduces demand for new materials.

- Donate usable clothing, furniture, and household goods to local charities.

- Shop at thrift stores, reuse centers, and community swaps.
- Save jars, boxes, and containers for storage or DIY projects.
- Borrow or rent items you need only occasionally, like tools or event supplies.
- Repair broken items instead of replacing them when possible.

Recycle

Recycling helps conserve natural resources, save energy, reduce pollution, and keep valuable materials out of the landfill. But it only works when done right.

- Place *only* accepted items in your recycling cart. Unsure if an item is recyclable? Use the Wizard search feature (🔍) at fairfaxva.gov/recycling to find out! See page 4.
- Make sure all recyclables are empty, clean, and dry.
- Never put plastic bags or “tangles” like string, cords, and hoses in your recycling cart.

- Dispose of glass in the Purple Can Club bins. See page 7.
- Take electronics, batteries, and household hazardous waste to one of the Fairfax County Drop-off Facilities. See page 7.

Recover

Materials such as food waste that can't be reused or recycled may be recovered as compost—which keeps them out of the trash *and* provides a valuable, nutrient-rich resource for local farmers.

- Compost food scraps and yard waste at home, or at one of the regional drop-off locations, including the City of Fairfax Composting Center, select farmers markets, and the I-66 Transfer Station. See page 6.

Trash

Discarding materials as trash should always be your last resort. Only when an item can't be reduced, reused, recycled, or recovered should it go in the trash.

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

TRASH AND RECYCLING

Residents are encouraged to use the City-issued rolling carts for trash (black) and recycling (blue).

If you regularly need more or less space, you may continue to use your own containers or bins previously issued by the City.

Trash

Household trash collection is provided for materials resulting from residential use and home maintenance.

Recycling

Curbside recycling collection is provided for *only* the materials identified on the “Know Before You Throw” recycling guide on page 5. Always place recyclables loose in your cart or container. **Do not bag the items.**

VIOLATION *Recyclables in plastic bags is prohibited and will be left at the curb and tagged as a violation.*

YARD WASTE

Yard waste includes cut grass, plant and shrub clippings, twigs, and smaller limbs from basic yard maintenance, as well as garden vegetation. Yard waste must be placed at the curb in reusable containers or paper bags. *Yard waste in plastic bags is prohibited and will be left at the curb and tagged as a violation.*



Invasives Plants

Dispose of invasive plants as trash—not yard waste. Invasive plants (English ivy, bamboo, bush honey suckle, etc.) can contaminate regular yard waste that gets mulched or composted, so it is important to dispose of them properly. Place invasive plants in your trash cart or in a plastic bag labeled ‘invasives’.



LARGE ITEMS AND BRUSH

Place large items and brush on the curb in an open area accessible to the crane truck—away from power lines, low-hanging limbs, parked vehicles, and fire hydrants.

Furniture, Appliances, and Large Items

Items too large to fit in a waste container (furniture, stoves, water heaters, car parts, storm doors, etc.) can be placed on the curb no more than 24 hours before collection day.



Brush

Brush includes limbs, branches, and tree trunks that are a maximum of 4 feet long. Large piles of brush may be placed on the curb at any time.



Leaves

Twice a year—in the Spring (April) and Fall (December)—the City collects loose leaves by vacuum truck. During these two times *only*, leaves should be piled loose at the curb or street edge. *Leaves in bags or trash cans during these times will not be collected. At all other times of the year, leaves must be disposed of as yard waste.*



! CONTRACTOR WASTE

The City of Fairfax will **not** collect any waste, debris, or materials generated by a contractor. This includes—but is not limited to—home renovation debris, construction materials, fencing, and debris from tree pruning/removal or landscaping and yard updates performed by a hired service. It is the sole responsibility of the contractor to remove and properly dispose of all waste they generate. Please ensure your contractor includes debris removal in your project.

TRASH



RECYCLING



YARD WASTE



WE'RE ON A ROLL!

CITY OF FAIRFAX, MEET YOUR NEW CARTS!



In September 2025, the City of Fairfax is providing residents new, 64-gallon carts for trash and recycling collection. Residents are encouraged to use these carts as they make disposal easier, neater, and more efficient—for both residents and our workforce.

- **Easy-to-use**—no lifting, just roll your cart to the curb
- **Weatherproof**—attached lids keep contents dry
- **Spacious**—more room for recyclables means higher recycling rate
- **Cleaner environment**—lids prevent litter from being blown into our neighborhoods and polluting our local streams, parks, and natural areas
- **Increased safety**—rolling carts and mechanical lifts protect crews from excess strain and injury.

All containers and materials must be placed curbside no later than 7 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. You may set them out as early as dusk the night before, and they must be removed from the street by 8 p.m. on collection day. Avoid blocking sidewalks, parked vehicles, fire hydrants, storm drains, utility accesses, etc.

City-Issued Cart Repairs: We've chosen durable carts designed to last, but if something goes wrong with yours—such as a broken wheel or cracked lid—you can request a repair or replacement. Visit fairfaxva.gov/resolve to fill out a 311 ticket.

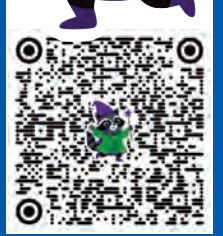
Route Finder: Not sure when your curbside collection day is? Use the Route Finder tool at fairfaxva.gov/recycling to find out!

UNSURE WHAT BIN IT GOES IN?

IS IT TRASH OR RECYCLABLE?

All the answers you could ever want are on the Wizard search feature on the City's website.

fairfaxva.gov/recycling



Holiday Schedule: Fairfax City does not pick up trash, recycling, or yard waste on the following holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth (Observed)
- Independence Day (Observed)
- Labor Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

If pickup is scheduled on a holiday Monday, it will occur the next day (Tuesday). Tuesday's pickup will still occur on Tuesday, etc. If a holiday falls on a Friday, pickup will take place Thursday (the day before).

Extreme Weather Delays: Extreme weather events such as snowstorms, flooding, and excessive heat may delay curbside collection services. If your items are not picked up on their scheduled day, leave them at the curb and they will be collected as soon as possible.

Back Door Collection Service

The City of Fairfax offers back door collection of trash and recycling for older adults or people with disabilities who are unable to bring their carts to the curb. To apply, visit fairfaxva.gov/backdoorcollection. For help, email refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7837. Certain restrictions apply.

KNOW BEFORE YOU THROW

YES!

PLACE ONLY THESE ITEMS IN YOUR RECYCLING CART AND ALWAYS KEEP ITEMS LOOSE IN YOUR CART (DO NOT BAG!)

PAPER



Magazines, junk mail, newspapers, paper bags, office paper

CARDBOARD



Flattened boxes, toilet paper and paper towel rolls

PLASTIC



Bottle, tubs and jugs only. Lids and labels can be left on.

METAL



Tin, aluminum, steel and aerosol cans. Must be empty, clean and dry.

NO! NEVER PLACE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR RECYCLING CART



Plastic bags and bubble mailers



Food wrappers



Light bulbs



Batteries and electronics
(Properly dispose of electronics and batteries at the I-66 Transfer Station. See page 7 for details.)



Take-out cups and straws



Shredded paper
(Compost shredded paper. See page 6 for details.)



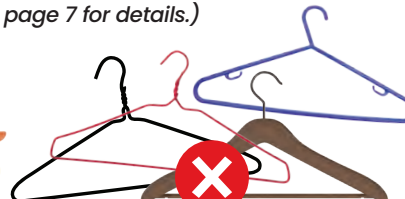
Styrofoam



Glass
(Dispose of glass at the Purple Can Club. See page 6 for details.)



Toys and other plastics



Hangers
(plastic, metal or wood)



Clothing and shoes

DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES



Recyclables should always be placed loose in your cart—never in plastic bags. Plastic bags and film can jam sorting equipment and cause serious delays at recycling facilities. If you use a bag to carry recyclables, empty the contents into your cart and then reuse the bag or recycle it at a participating grocery or retail store. Learn more at fairfaxva.gov/recycling

BATTERIES CAN SPARK FIRES

NEVER PLACE BATTERIES IN YOUR TRASH OR RECYCLING CART.



Batteries—especially lithium-ion—can spark fires in collection trucks or at waste management facilities. Never place batteries in your trash or recycling cart. Instead, drop off used batteries at a qualified household hazardous waste (HHW) collection center. Tape battery terminals and keep different types separated for safe transport. See page 7.

DROP OFF PROGRAMS

COMPOSTING

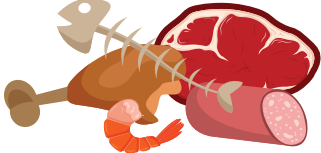
fairfaxva.gov/composting

As much as a quarter of residential waste is organic materials that can be recovered as compost. Compost at home or drop off food scraps at the City of Fairfax Composting Center located on the west side of City Hall (10455 Armstrong St.).

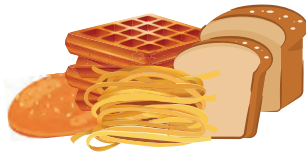
COMPOSTABLE ITEMS



Fruit and vegetable scraps, egg shells, and coffee grounds
These items can also be composted in your backyard.



Meat, seafood, shells, and bones



Bread, pasta, and grains



Leftovers and spoiled food

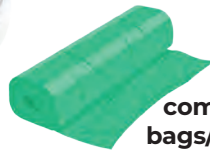
YES!



Food-soiled paper (no plastic coating)



Paper bags and plates (no plastic coating)



Certified compostable bags/products

NO!



Recyclables, plastic bags, oil (or Crisco), or Styrofoam

GLASS RECYCLING

fairfaxva.gov/purplecan

Glass is *not* accepted in curbside recycling. Glass should be reused, taken to one of the conveniently located Purple Can Club bins, or placed in the trash.

GLASS RECYCLABLES

YES!



- ✓ Glass bottles and jars only
- ✓ All colors, shapes, and sizes of glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Caps, lids, and labels can be left on
- ✓ Empty and rinse all materials

NO!

Do not bag glass or deposit in a cardboard box. Place glass items loose in a Purple Can Club bin.



No lamps or light bulbs. (Drop off at local hardware stores.)

No plastic bags. (Return to retailers.)

No miscellaneous glass (porcelain, ceramics, mirrors, windows, etc.).





See drop-off locations (addresses/map) and contact information on page 8.

DROP OFF PROGRAMS

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

fairfaxva.gov/HHW

Never place electronics in the curbside trash or recycling.

Electronics should never be placed in the curbside trash or recycling due to the hazardous materials they may contain, such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. These substances can pose serious environmental and health risks if not properly managed. Drop off electronics at the I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Rd.) to properly recycle and safely dispose of any broken or unwanted electronics, including:

- Computers, desktops, laptops
- Monitors, printers, scanners
- Harddrives, keyboards, mice
- Cameras, phones
- Televisions, VCRs, DVD players
- Gaming devices
- Solar panels
- Miscellaneous wires, electronic cords, cables



HHW DISPOSAL

fairfaxva.gov/HHW

Never dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) in the regular trash, pour down the drain, or flush.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) refers to used or leftover contents of consumer products that contain materials with one of the four characteristics of a hazardous waste: toxic, ignitable, corrosive, or reactive. HHW should never be disposed of in the regular trash, poured down the drain, or flushed.

- Automotive oil, antifreeze
- Batteries, light bulbs
- Cleaners, polishes
- Propane tanks
- Mercury (thermometers)
- Stains, varnishes
- Oil-based paint
- Paint thinners, strippers, solvents
- Fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides



PACK SMART. For safe transportation, place all HHW products upright in a cardboard box and secure in the back seat or passenger seat for transport. Make sure lids are tightly sealed. When possible, bring materials in their original containers; label those not in original containers. Place leaking or corroded containers in a large plastic container with a tight-fitting lid.



CLOTHING/TEXTILES

fairfaxcounty.gov

Clothing and textiles comprise one of the fastest-growing waste streams in the U.S., although 95% of discarded textiles can be reused or recycled. Drop your items off at the blue collection bins at the I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Rd.).

- Tops (blouses, T-shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, etc.)
- Bottoms (pants, jeans, shorts, skirts, etc.)
- Dresses, suits, outerwear (coats, jackets, etc.)
- Socks, leggings, tights, stockings, hosiery, etc.
- Pajamas, intimates (bras, underwear, etc.)

Items can be stained, worn, or have broken zippers, but must be clean, dry, odorless, and secured in a plastic bag.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Before you head out to drop off electronics, HHW, textiles, or clothing at their designated dropoff locations (see page 8), be sure to:

1. Check hours and holiday schedules online.
2. Confirm accepted items—restrictions may apply or a fee may be imposed.
3. Bring ID or utility bill with Fairfax City address.
4. Separate and secure all materials for safe transfer (see “Pack Smart” above).

Visit fairfaxcounty.gov for more information.

See drop-off locations (addresses/map) and contact information on page 8.

CONTACT INFORMATION



City of Fairfax Trash and Recycling Services

fairfaxva.gov/recycling

refusercycling@fairfaxva.gov

703-385-7837 or
703-385-LEAF (5323)

Fairfax County Trash and Recycling Drop Off Centers

A I-66 Transfer Station 4618 West Ox Rd.

B I-95 Landfill 9850 Furnace Rd., Lorton, VA 22079

fairfaxcounty.gov

trashmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

703-324-5230

Composting Drop Off Center

★ 10455 Armstrong Street

(adjacent to the Community Garden
on the west side of City Hall)

Accessible 24/7/365

fairfaxva.gov/composting

composting@fairfaxva.gov



Glass "Purple Can Club" Drop Off Bins

1 I-66 Transfer Station

4618 West Ox Rd.

2 Fairfax County Government Center*

12000 Government Center Pkwy.

3 10700 Page Ave* (off Judicial Dr.)

4 Providence Community Center*

3001 Vaden Dr.

fairfaxva.gov/purplecan

*Accessible 24/7/365

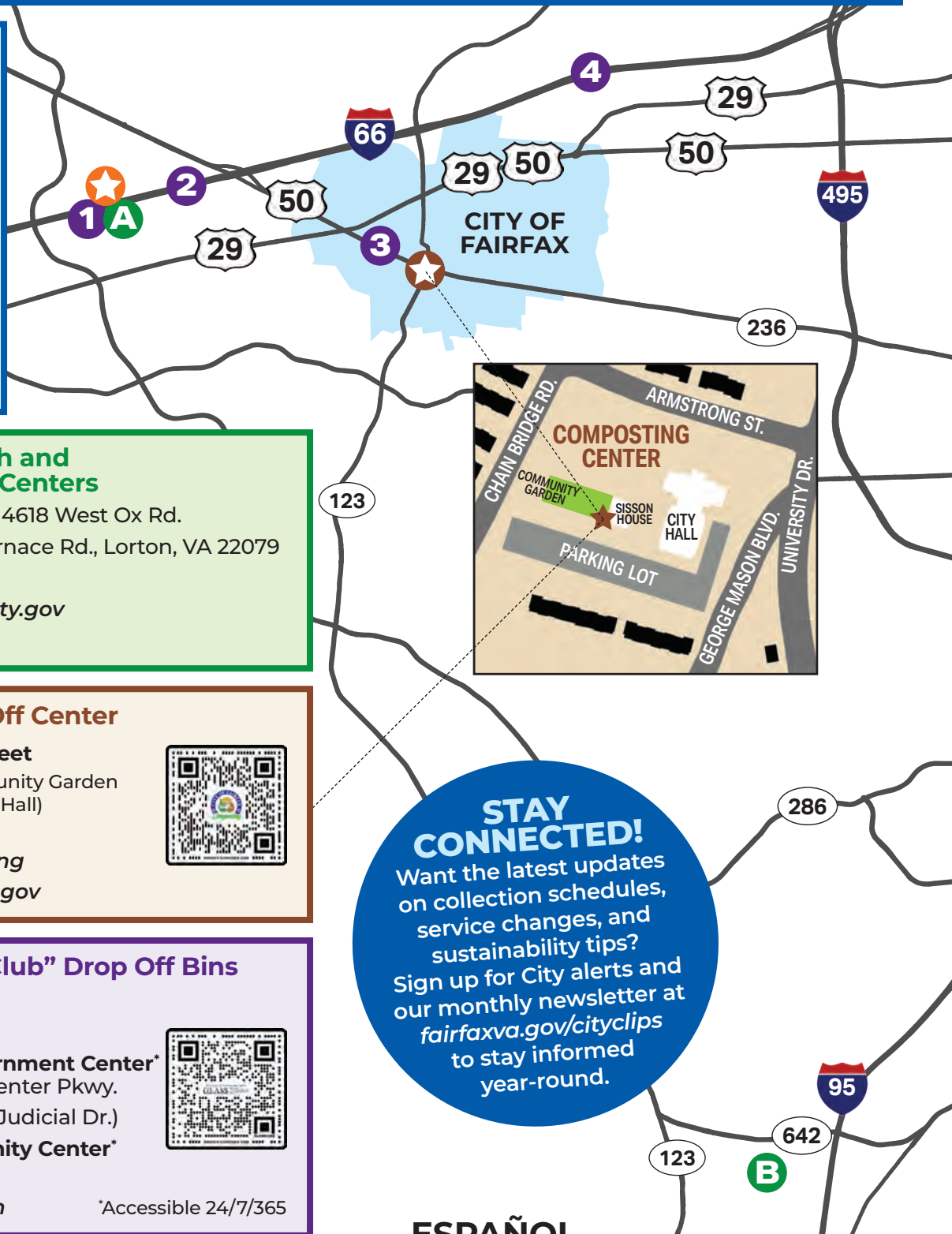


Electronics, Hazardous Household Waste (HHW), and Clothing/Textiles Drop Off Center

★ I-66 Transfer Station

4618 West Ox Rd.

fairfaxva.gov/HHW



STAY CONNECTED!

Want the latest updates
on collection schedules,
service changes, and
sustainability tips?
Sign up for City alerts and
our monthly newsletter at
fairfaxva.gov/cityclips
to stay informed
year-round.

ESPAÑOL

Para la Guía de Servicios
de Residuos Sólidos en
Español, visita
fairfaxva.gov/recycling



To request this
information in an
alternate format,
call 703-385-7800
(TTY: 711).