2023-2024
Trash & Recycling Handbook

CITY of CAPE GIRARDEAU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Printed on recycled paper

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CONTACT US

Public Works Department
(Special Needs Form)
Solid Waste Division/Recycling Center
2007 Southern Expressway
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
573-339-6351
www.cityofcape.org/solidwaste
capepublicworks@cityofcape.org

Utility Billing
(Service/Billing)
1625 N. Kingshighway–The Osage Centre
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
573-339-6322

Transfer Station
2055 Corporate Circle
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
573-339-6353
COLLECTION DAYS & ROUTES

Each residential customer receives one trash and one recycling collection day per week. Regular, weekly collection involves a truck with an automated cart-dumping mechanical arm. Please follow the guidelines on the following pages.

If your street is on a dividing line, the routes are split depending on what side of the street you live on.

Trash and Recycling Days
- Monday Trash Thursday Recycling
- Tuesday Trash Friday Recycling
- Thursday Trash Monday Recycling
- Friday Trash Tuesday Recycling

If you have questions call Public Works at 339-6351
Tan Trash Cart

- All trash must be placed in a cart provided by the City.
- Only daily household trash should go in the tan trash cart.
- Placing all trash in plastic bags is recommended.
- All trash must be inside the cart so that the lid can shut. **Items outside or protruding from the cart will not be collected.**
- Do not tightly pack the cart. Trash can become stuck and will not empty into the automated truck.

The following items can **NOT** be placed in the cart:

- Hot ashes or coals
- Household hazardous waste and chemicals (see page 12)
- Flammable materials like oil, gas or oil based paint (see page 12)
- Dirt, sod or rock
- Appliances or furniture (see page 8 & 11)
- Concrete or bricks
- Yard waste, limbs and brush (see page 10)
- Wet paint or paint in glass containers (see page 9 for latex paint disposal)

Needles and sharps

**SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED**

Diseases such as Hepatitis A and C, and HIV can be transmitted from needle sticks. Needles/Sharps must be managed safely to prevent injury and disease transmission. Follow these simple steps for safe disposal:

- Purchase a commercially available sharps container or use a hard plastic (e.g. laundry detergent) or metal (e.g. coffee can) container.
- Using a permanent marker, label container “**USED HOUSEHOLD SHARPS: DO NOT RECYCLE.**”
- Place sharps point-first into the container.
- Keep lid on at all times to prevent spills and to decrease stick hazards.
- Fill container as much as possible with sharps, then fill the remaining space with sand or kitty litter. You must be able to close the container lid.
- When full, cap container with lid and secure with duct tape. Place in cart.

**Other disposal options**

- Schedule a special pickup (see page 8)
- Drop-off waste at our Transfer Station (see page 11)
REGULAR WEEKLY RECYCLING COLLECTION

Dark Green Recycling Cart

Single stream recycling is a sort-free system. Labels are acceptable but any food residue should be rinsed clean. Recyclables will not be accepted if placed in a bag of any kind inside of the recycling cart. The following recyclables (excluding glass) go in the dark green recycling cart:

- Corrugated cardboard, gray board and chipboard- including soda, cereal, and frozen pizza boxes
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, and paper
- Aluminum, steel and tin

The following items can **NOT** be recycled:

- Garbage bags, newspaper sleeves or plastic shopping bags of any kind
- Plastic wrap or waxed paper
- Pet food bags
- Hazardous waste and pesticide containers (see page 12)
- Packing peanuts or bubble wrap
- Plastics labeled “PLA”
- Plastics with #6
- Any Type of Styrofoam
- Clothing
- Water hoses
- Hardcover books
- Photographs
- Plastic Utensils
- Towels and napkins
- Tissues, diapers, toilet paper
- Take out food containers
- Foil-lined items such as cookie and chip bags
- Wood and Particle Board
- Yard Waste
- Large items—such as toys, plastic patio furniture, vinyl blinds, etc.

Glass Recycling

Glass cannot be placed in the recycling cart because of breakage and contamination.

Drop off glass food containers for recycling at these locations:

- **Fire Station 1**
  1 South Sprigg Street
- **Fire Station 2**
  378 South Mount Auburn Road
- **Fire Station 3**
  1974 North Sprigg Street
- **Public Works**
  Recycling Drop-Off
  2007 Southern Expressway
- **Osage Centre**
  1625 North Kingshighway
- **A. C. Brase Arena**
  410 Kiwanis Drive

**Glass food and beverage containers ONLY.**

**NO broken glass, window panes, automobile glass, china, dishes, light bulbs, mirrors, etc.**
CART PLACEMENT & INFORMATION

Standard Cart Sizes
Tan trash cart - 64 gallons
Dark green recycling cart - 96 gallons

Weight Limits
Overloading carts will cause damage and the resident will be charged if a replacement is required due to overloading and/or abuse. Your cart cannot be picked up if it exceeds the following weight limits:

- 96 gallon cart: 335 lbs
- 64 gallon cart: 224 lbs
- 48 gallon cart: 168 lbs

Smaller Carts Available Upon Request
At 48 gallons each, smaller carts work well for 1-2 person households with limited storage.

Extra Trash Carts
Residents may request an additional 64-gallon trash cart. The monthly service charge will be double the current rate. Call for current rate.

Damaged or Broken Carts
Contact the Public Works Department at (573)339-6351 for repair service or required replacement. There is no charge to the resident for cart repair or replacement due to normal wear and tear.

Special Needs Pick Up - No Additional Charge
If a resident is physically unable to take the carts to the curb, they can apply for a Special Needs Pickup. Contact Public Works at (573)339-6351 to request a Special Needs form. The form must be completed and signed by a physician. Once that form is completed and returned to Public Works, the Solid Waste Division will transfer the resident’s cart from an easily accessible location to the truck and return it when empty.
CART PLACEMENT & INFORMATION

Carts must be set out by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day, but cannot be set out sooner than 12 hours prior to the collection date. Carts must be removed from the curb on the day of collection within a reasonable timeframe.

Place wheeled cart within four feet of the curb, edge of roadway, or where instructed by City personnel. There is a directional arrow on the lid of the cart. **Do not block the sidewalk with the cart.** Keep carts at least four feet away from other carts, mailboxes, parked cars and other obstructions so the truck can easily access the cart. **It is the resident’s responsibility to ensure the truck can access the cart.** If a cart is not accessible, it will not be emptied and will be collected the following week, if accessible.

**4-Feet Rule**

Keep carts at least four feet away from other carts, mailboxes, fire hydrants, low hanging trees or shrubs, parked cars, and utility poles so trucks can easily access the cart.
Wednesday Special Pickups - Free Annual Pickup
By Appointment Only - Call Public Works 573-339-6351

Free Annual Pickup
Public Works’ Solid Waste Division offers a weekly, Wednesday Special Pickup by appointment, except during holiday weeks. Each residential trash customer is allowed one, free Wednesday Special Pickup per calendar year. This pickup provides an annual disposal option for extra refuse, bulky items and appliances. Please call the Public Works Department to check availability, and request your free pickup. A limited number of pick up slots are available each Wednesday. Schedule early to get the Wednesday of your choice.

When placing your items at the front curb for a special pick up, you must separate everything into three categories: 1) boxes, bags and bulky items (furniture); 2) appliances; 3) bundled limbs and compost (see page 9). This allows different trucks to be able to pickup various items. All small, loose items must be in bags or boxes. Any loose items not in bags or boxes will be left and becomes resident’s responsibility.

The City of Cape trash and recycling carts will not be emptied during a special pickup. If your free annual pickup takes Public Works staff more than 10 minutes to load, it will convert to a charge pick up. The first 10 minutes of the pickup are free, a charge of $1.45 per minute will be applied after the first 10 minutes.

Wednesday Special Pickups—Charges
You will be billed for any special pickups over and above the one annual free pickup allowance per residence. Rates are listed below through page 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bags and boxes only (1-5 minute pickup time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bags and boxes (6-10 minute pickup time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appliances (must be empty)</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture/Large Items</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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A Fuel Surcharge will be added when fuel prices exceed $3.75/gallon. Fuel Surcharge rates will vary monthly.

Christmas Tree Disposal Options:
Available Christmas through January 31st
Drop –Off: In the designated drop-off location available in Arena Park. No Charge.
Pickup: Collected by appointment - Call 573-339-6351 - $6.00 per tree

>>All Rates may increase annually on July 1st<<
SCHEDULED COLLECTION

Wednesday Special Pickups—Continued

Limbs, brush and other compost materials:
Limbs and brush that are 1/4” in diameter or smaller can be picked up as long as they are bundled together. Each bundle must not be longer than four (4) feet in length, and no larger than eighteen (18) inches in diameter. **Limbs and brush that are not bundled will not be picked up.**

**Limbs and Brush are not included in the Free Annual Pickups—Charges will apply.**

City of Cape Girardeau Compost Bags are available for purchase. These compost bags are used for the removal of leaves, grass clippings, small twigs, etc. The compost bags are made of brown kraft paper (with a bright green “City of Cape Girardeau” sticker on them). These compost bags can be purchased at Food Giant, Schnucks and the Utility Billing office at the Osage Center. These are sold in sets of five bags for $7.45, and there is no additional charge for pickup. Non-city compost bags will be picked up at a cost of $12.00 for 1-10 compost bags. Please call Public Works to schedule a compost pickup.

Leaves, grass clippings, yard and garden vegetation and shrubs or twigs with a diameter of 1/4” or less are also accepted at the City Recycling Drop-Off free of charge Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 2007 Southern Expressway.

The Following Items are NOT Accepted for Wednesday Special Pickups
Tires, batteries, oil, bricks, concrete, railroad ties, automobile parts, pesticides, oil based paint, or other hazardous materials. See page 12 for more on hazardous waste disposal.

Paint Disposal
Latex paint in **solid form** may be disposed of in your normal trash cart, or with a special pickup. To solidify paint, mix a solvent such as cat litter or sand with the paint using 2 parts cat litter or sand to one part paint and let it dry completely. If placing in your cart, seal and bag the solidified paint container. When using a special pickup, place the paint to the side of your other items with the lid(s) removed so the hauler can see that it is solidified.

Never put liquid paint in the trash or pour it down the drain, into the sewer, on the ground, or into a waterway. Paint disposed of this way can contaminate our soil and groundwater.

Oil based paint is considered hazardous, and must be disposed of through a hazardous waste collection. (see page 12)
YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The City’s Leaf Collection Program consists of 3 Phases:

**Phase 1:** The entire month of October the automated leaf truck travels the entire City continuously on unscheduled routes.

**Phase 2:** From November through early January the leaf truck will run the routes designated on the brochure map (a separate mailing sent out in the fall). The leaf truck will only collect leaves at each residence one time during this phase. To ensure the best service possible during this phase, it is important that residents rake their leaves to the curb prior to the start date of their route.

Be aware scheduled routes can be affected by weather. Depending on how severe the weather is, collection of leaves for each route may be delayed.

**Phase 3:** Begins at the end of Phase 2 when all scheduled routes have been completed at least once. Phase 3 will continue through the end of March. The leaf truck will travel the City continuously on unscheduled routes during this phase and may be at each residence more than once.

If you prefer to dispose of your leaves, you are welcome to utilize containers available for City residents at the Recycling Center free of charge.

You can also purchase compost bags and call to arrange a pickup on Wednesdays. See Page 8 and 9 for more information on Wednesday Special Pickups and Compost Pickups.

Information regarding this year’s leaf season can be found on our website (www.cityofcape.org/publicworks).

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**Grass Clippings**

Grass clippings can account for up to 50% of your solid waste during the growing season. Composting clippings or using them as mulch are great ways of dealing with your grass clippings. Alternatively, you can simply leave them on the lawn so they can help improve your soil. Each bag of grass clippings is equivalent to 1/4 pound of usable nitrogen fertilizer. During dry spells clippings left on the lawn help retain moisture in the soil.

**FACT:** Grass clippings do not contribute to thatch; they are almost 80% moisture and they decompose quickly. Don’t overlook the ability to reduce waste in your own backyard. You can also purchase compost bags and call to arrange a pickup on Wednesdays (see page 9). **Please recycle your yard waste.**

**Mulch**

The yard waste collected by the City of Cape Girardeau is ground into mulch and made available to City residents in the southeast corner of Arena Park on a first come first serve basis.
DROP-OFF OPTIONS

Recycling Drop-Off
The Recycling facility is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. It accepts all recycling including paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, glass and electronics. See page 5 for details on recyclables. Yard waste is also accepted (listed on page 9.) **The facility does not accept garbage bags, newspaper sleeves, or plastic shopping bags of any kind.**

Electronics/E-Waste: Acceptable Items - No Charge
Located at the Recycling Drop-Off
Items may be functional or broken

- Computers
- Non-CRT Monitors (flat screen)
- Printers
- Keyboards
- Laptops
- Hard Drives
- Cell Phones
- Speakers
- VCR
- DVD
- Fax Machines
- Answering Machines
- Stereos
- Microwaves

Electronics/E-Waste: Unacceptable Items
Televisions, CRT Monitors, Smoke Detectors, Glass Lamps, Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Tubes, Chemicals, Hazardous Material, Thermostats, Alkaline Batteries

Transfer Station 573-339-6353
You may haul items for disposal to the City’s transfer station located at 2055 Corporate Circle. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Please call for Holiday Schedule. There is a minimum charge of $6.00 Fees must be paid on site with cash, check, credit card, or debit card. **All loads must be secured.** Trailers without sides must be completely covered by tarps. Trucks must have their tailgates up, loads tarped, and the disposal items cannot be hanging off the vehicle in any way. Any vehicle without its load completely covered will be assessed a $25 unsecured load fee in addition to the disposal rate.

- General disposal rate: $74.60 per ton
- Limbs and Brush: $74.60 per ton
- White goods (appliances): $9.00 each
- Unsecured load fee: $25

A Fuel Surcharge will be added when fuel prices exceed $3.75/gallon. Fuel Surcharge rates will vary monthly.

Items Not Allowed: tires, batteries, oil, concrete, railroad ties, automobile parts, pesticides, oil based paint and any other type of hazardous material.

>>All Rates may increase annually on July 1st<<
Motor Oil and Other Acceptable Fluids
In accordance with Missouri Department of Natural Resources regulations and guidelines; The City of Cape Girardeau accepts used motor oil, power steering fluid, transmission fluid, differential grease, and kerosene from citizens. Used motor oil generated by farming operations will also be accepted. No business or commercial entity will be allowed to drop off motor oil or other acceptable fluids.

Used motor oil and fluids accepted: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.  
(Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays)

Location: 2007 Southern Expressway, southeastern corner of the building

Do not mix solvents, water, gasoline, anti-freeze or other types of oil with your used motor oil. A test may be performed on the oil to certify that it is strictly motor oil. Citizens must sign a log sheet.  
NO CONTAMINATED OIL WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Oil and fluids are used to heat the City’s Fleet Maintenance area and the Recycling Processing Facility.

Other Household Hazardous Wastes
The City of Cape Girardeau periodically offers an event to drop-off household hazardous wastes. These events are dependent upon state grant funding. Please visit www.cityofcape.org/solidwaste for more information.

Accepted Items:

- Acids
- Adhesive
- Alkali Salts
- Alkaline
- Antifreeze
- Artist Paint
- Auto Wax
- Brake Fluid
- Brush Cleaner
- Carburetor Cleaner
- Correction Fluid
- Cutting Oil
- Degreaser
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Fuel Additives
- Furniture Stripper
- Furniture Wax/Polish
- Gasoline
- Glue (no solvents)
- Gun Cleaning Solvents
- Isocyanates
- Kerosene
- Lighter Fluid
- Linseed Oil
- Mercury Thermometers
- Mercury Waste
- Mineral Spirits
- Nail Polish
- Oxidizers
- Paint
- Paint Remover
- Paint Thinner
- Pesticides/Herbicides
- Photo Chemicals
- Primer
- Roofing Tar
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Rug/Upholstery Cleaner
- Shoe Polish
- Solvents
- Spot Cleaner/Remover
- Transmission Fluid
- Turpentine
- Used Motor Oil
- Used Oil Filters
- Varnish
- Aerosols—containing above materials

Not accepted: Ammunition, Asbestos, Batteries, Biological Waste, Cooking Oil, Explosives, Fertilizers, Fire Extinguishers, Gas Cylinders, Infectious Wastes, Paint in Glass Containers, Pharmaceuticals, Prescription Drugs, Radioactive Waste, Smoke Detectors, Syringes, Tires, Transformers/Ballasts

Latex paint can be dried and placed in normal trash or with a Wednesday Special Pickup. (See page 9)

Never Add Hazardous Waste to Your Trash Carts
ABOUT CAPE GIRARDEAU GOVERNMENT

Administration & Government offices are located at City Hall. The Mayor and City Council establish policy and law in Cape Girardeau with input from residents and advisory boards. The City Manager manages administrative divisions in addition to the departments listed below. For more information on public meetings or to contact your Council representative, call 573-339-6320 or visit www.cityofcape.org/yourgov.

Community Development promotes the quality of planned community development by regulating land use, managing public infrastructure improvements, and supporting safe building projects. For zoning and building permits call 573-339-6327 or visit www.cityofcape.org/development.

Fire Department personnel are both the City’s technical rescue experts and first responders in a medical emergency. Please familiarize yourself with their burning regulations by calling 573-339-6330 or visiting www.cityofcape.org/fire.

Parks & Recreation activities are enjoyed by over one million people from the City and across the country. Personnel manage our 23 parks, community centers and gyms, facilities and numerous fitness and recreation activities. Get involved by calling 573-339-6340 or visit www.cityofcape.org/parks.

Police Department officers and civilian personnel respond to a variety of emergency calls in addition to a multitude of community outreach activities. Dial 911 for emergencies. Please report nuisances anytime at 573-339-6621 ext. 3, or visit www.cityofcape.org/police.

Public Works is the City's largest department and manages street, storm water, sewer, and water infrastructure maintenance; trash and recycling pickup; leaf and snow removal; wastewater treatment; City vehicle upkeep; and levee system operation and maintenance. Contact: 573-339-6351 or visit www.cityofcape.org/publicworks

Other Important Contacts
Cape Girardeau County, 573-243-1052, www.capecounty.us
Voting, Property Tax, Health Department, Marriage Licenses
Drivers Licenses, Conservation, Unemployment, Elected Officials
Social Security, IRS, Elected Officials, Military

BILLING: WATER, SEWER, TRASH
Your City of Cape Girardeau monthly bill includes charges for water, trash/recycling and sewer. We encourage you to sign up for free, automatic bill payment. You may also pay any time online, by mail or in-person during business hours (Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Utility Billing
1625 N Kingshighway
573-339-6322
www.cityofcape.org/customerservice
HOLIDAY TRASH AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

During holiday weeks, there will not be a Wednesday Special Pickup, and the trash/recycling routes will run as follows:

**Monday holiday** - Monday's trash/recycling route will run on Tuesday. Tuesday’s trash/recycling route will run on Wednesday. All other routes remain the same.

**Tuesday holiday** - Tuesday's trash/recycling route will run on Wednesday. All other routes remain the same.

**Wednesday holiday** - All routes remain the same.

**Thursday holiday** - Thursday's trash/recycling route will run on Wednesday. All other routes remain the same.

**Friday holiday** - Thursday's trash/recycling route will run on Wednesday. Friday's routes will run on Thursday. All other routes remain the same.

**Saturday holiday** - The City offices will be closed on the Friday prior to the holiday in observance. Therefore, Thursday’s trash/recycling routes will run on Wednesday. Friday’s routes will run on Thursday. All other routes remain the same.

**Sunday holiday** - The City offices will be closed on the Monday after the holiday in observance. Therefore, Monday’s trash/recycling routes will run on Tuesday. Tuesday’s routes will run on Wednesday. All other routes remain the same.

**Thanksgiving holiday** - Trash/recycling routes for Thursday and Friday will both run on Wednesday, the day before the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Christmas holiday 2023** – The City offices will be closed Friday, 12/22, in observance of Christmas Eve. Friday’s routes will run on Thursday. Thursday’s routes will run on Wednesday. The City offices will be closed Monday, 12/25, in observance of Christmas Day. Monday’s routes will run on Tuesday. Tuesday’s routes will run on Wednesday.
### 2023

**City of Cape Girardeau**  
**Holiday Trash & Recycling Schedule**

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**2023 Holidays**

- **New Year's Day**  
  Monday, January 2 (observed)

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
  Monday, January 16

- **President's Day**  
  Monday, February 20

- **Memorial Day**  
  Monday, May 29

- **Independence Day**  
  Tuesday, July 4

- **Labor Day**  
  Monday, September 4

- **Veterans' Day**  
  Friday, November 10 (observed)

- **Thanksgiving**  
  Thursday, November 23  
  Friday, November 24

- **Christmas Eve & Day**  
  Friday, December 22 (observed)  
  Monday, December 25