



RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS

City of Waukesha – Department of Public Works

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Approved by the Board of Public Works March 20, 2025.



GENERAL

The City of Waukesha contracts recycling and solid waste services to a hauling company, Johns Disposal. The contracted services and all regulations that follow are for eligible residential properties, as defined in city code 13.055. The Department of Public Works shall serve as administrators of residential solid waste and recycling services and set forth additional and updated regulations as necessary. Residents shall refer to these regulations for current policies and instructions.

CART REGULATIONS

Carts Ownership and Care: For properties with automated pickup, the carts provided are owned by the City of Waukesha. Each cart has a specific ID number assigned to a property. All carts must stay with the property where it is assigned. The owners or legal occupants of eligible properties are responsible for the care of the carts assigned to that property. Carts may not be modified or improved without the approval of the City of Waukesha. Property owners may be subject to fines and fees if carts are neglected or modified without city authorization.

Standard Cart Sizes: 64-gallon trash cart, 96-gallon recycle cart. There are also 48-gallon size small carts available. The cart sizes of 48-gallons, 64-gallons, and 96-gallons are available for both garbage and recycling.

Damaged Carts from Servicing: If a cart is damaged by the normal collection service or by normal wear, Johns Disposal will repair or replace it at no charge.

User Neglected or Missing Cart: If a cart is lost, stolen, or rendered unusable due to user neglect as determined by the Department of Public Works, property owners must pay to replace the cart through Johns Disposal. The cost of a replacement delivery is \$75 per cart, paid directly to Johns Disposal. Property owners wanting to replace a large, 96-gallon garbage cart must additionally pay a one-time \$15 fee.

Exchanging Carts: If a property owner wishes to exchange a cart for a different size or other reason, property owners must pay to exchange the cart. The cost of an exchange is \$75 per cart, paid directly to Johns Disposal. Property owners who want a large, 96-gallon trash cart incur an additional one-time \$15 fee. When property ownership changes, new owners may exchange carts for no exchange fee within their first month of owning the property (any subsequent cart exchanges are subject to the exchange fee), but the request for a large, 96-gallon garbage cart incurs a one-time \$15 charge.

Additional Carts: If a property wishes to have an additional trash or recycling cart, they may pay for the extra cart annually through Johns Disposal. The cost of having an additional cart increases each year.

Summary of Cart Related Fees

	Cost	Paid to
Replacement Cart due to Resident Negligence	\$75 replacement fee; additional \$15 fee for 96-gallon garbage cart	Johns Disposal
Exchange Cart (Resident Request)	\$75 exchange fee; additional \$15 fee for 96-gallon garbage cart	Johns Disposal
Additional Cart	\$ Varies per type (garbage or recycle) and year. Call Johns Disposal for information.	Johns Disposal
New property owner exchange request	No exchange fee within the first month of ownership; additional \$15 fee for 96-gallon garbage cart	(No Fee) Johns Disposal

APPLIANCES, BULKY ITEMS, ELECTRONICS AND OTHER ITEMS

What is a Bulky Item: Bulky items are large trash items which do not fit in the cart, even if the cart was empty. Common examples of bulky items are sofas, tables, mattresses and box springs, and other oversized trash items. Smaller items which would fit in the cart if the cart was empty, are NOT bulky items. Extra bags are not eligible bulky items. Extra recyclables or large cardboard boxes are not bulky items – there is not a “bulky recycling” option.

Appliances: Appliances are separated into two categories: 1) freon and 2) non-freon. Common examples of freon appliances include refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers. Non-freon appliances include microwaves, washers and dryers, water heaters, dishwashers, stoves, space heaters, and toaster ovens.

Limitations: Eligible properties are limited to setting out 5 appliances, bulky items or other items per pickup, and a maximum of 10 items per month. Additionally, if an item is deemed too heavy, too large to fit in truck, or dangerous to move it can be denied pickup. Examples of items that are not feasible for pickup are a jet ski, a boat, or a hot tub.

Procedure: Residents must make a call to schedule and pay for pickup with Johns Disposal for all items listed in this section. Johns Disposal will collect payment (credit card or check), provide the scheduled pickup date, and any related instructions for the pickup. Bulky items should be placed at the end of the driveway or on the front curb for pickup, including for properties with alleys. Residents must adhere to the same timing rules of normal garbage and recycling services.

Schedule of Bulky Item Pickup Fees*

2025 Prices	
Non-Freon Appliance	\$45 per item
Freon Appliance	\$60 per item
1 Bulky Trash Item	\$45 per item
2 – 3 Bulky Trash Items	\$60 per pickup
4 – 5 Bulky Trash Items	\$75 per pickup
E-Waste Item	\$50 per item
Motor Oil/Antifreeze	\$45 per pickup
Tires	\$45 per pickup
Items 100 lbs. or Heavier	Call for Price

*Prices scheduled to increase over the course of the current hauling contract.

SERVICE REQUESTS

Return Pickups: Residents may contact Johns Disposal to request and pay for a return pickup if the resident did not have materials out on time. The cost of a return pickup starts at \$60 per return, paid to Johns Disposal.

Walk-Up Hardship Service: Residents with automated pickup may make a request to the City of Waukesha for walk-up hardship service assistance for medical reasons. A form must be completed and submitted to the city. Contact the city for more information.

Up-the-Drive Service: Residents may contact Johns Disposal to request up-the-drive service for reasons other than medical hardship. Johns Disposal may charge for up-the-drive service at the market rate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Johns Disposal customer service can be reached at 262-473-4700 or by email at office@johnsdisposal.com. Residents may also visit johnsdisposal.com/waukesha

Residents may also call the **City Department of Public Works** - 262-524-3600. For recycling specific questions, residents should contact **Waukesha County Recycling** - 262-896-8300.

****See Disposal Chart Below for Specific Bulky Item and Appliances Instructions****

BULKY ITEMS DISPOSAL CHART

Item	Limit	Set Out Guidelines
Appliances (Refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, dishwashers, dehumidifiers, washers and driers, stoves/ovens, space heaters, water softener brine tanks)	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Non-Freon and Freon appliances have different prices. See prices information.
Artificial Trees	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	The city prefers placing this item into the TRASH cart if it fits reasonably. If not, it can be scheduled as a bulky item pickup.
Bathtubs and Sinks	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Only fiberglass bathtubs and sinks can be taken – no cast iron tubs. Bathtubs must be cut into two pieces. Any sharp objects or edges must be removed or covered.
Car Seats	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	The city prefers placing this item into the TRASH cart if it fits reasonably. If not, it can be scheduled as a bulky item pickup.
Carpeting, Padding, and Rugs	6 rolls count as 1 bulky item.	Rolls must be cut to 4-foot lengths, rolled, and tied. Rolls must not weigh more than 50 lbs. per roll.
Countertops	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Countertops must be normal household items. Must not be more than 4 feet in length and weigh more than 50 lbs. per item. Any sharp objects or edges must be removed or covered.
Couches, Sofas, and Cushioned Chairs	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	If soaked in rain, service may not be able to pick up due to weight. It cannot be covered with other trash items.
Doors	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Doors must be normal household items, not unusually large or heavy.
Exercise Equipment (Treadmills, ellipticals, stationary bikes, etc.)	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Exercise equipment is treated as a bulky item.
Furniture (Kitchen chairs, dressers, desks, tables, shelving units, etc.)	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	It is better to leave these items WHOLE rather than breaking down into many small pieces on the ground. Many small pieces will not be picked up and should be placed into TRASH cart. The whole furniture must not be longer than 6 feet in length nor weigh more than 50 lbs., else they should be broken down to these sizes.
Grills (Stand up, larger ones)	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Grills are treated as an non-freon appliance.
Garbage Cans and Recycle Bins (Old ones you wish to dispose)	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Old garbage cans and recycle bins must be set out empty, upside down, and with a sign attached indicating "TAKE FOR TRASH".
Lumber and Pipes	3 bundles count as 1 bulky item.	Bundles must be cut to 4-foot lengths and tied. Bundles must not weigh more than 50 lbs. per bundle. All nails, screws, or any other sharp objects or edges must be removed or fixed for pickup.

Item	Limit	Set Out Guidelines
Mattresses and Box Springs	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	King and queen size mattresses MUST be folded at the crease (built into mattress) and tied. If soaked in rain, service may not be able to pick up these items due to weight.
Railroad Ties	3 ties count as 1 bulky item.	Ties must be cut to 4-foot lengths and must not weigh more than 50 lbs. per tie.
Tires (Normal Vehicle Tires)	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	All tires must be off the rim.
Toilets	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Toilets must be broken in two pieces – the bowl/seat and tank must be separate. Any sharp objects or edges must be removed or covered.
Vacuums and Carpet Cleaners	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	The city prefers this item placed into the TRASH cart if it will fit reasonably. If not, it can be scheduled as a bulky item pickup.
Water Softeners	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Water softeners are treated like a bulky item. The brine tank and water tub are considered one item.
Windows/Glass Doors	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Windows must be normal household items, not unusually large or heavy. Call Johns Disposal for specific instructions.
Wood Sheets/Panels	Limit of 5 items per pickup, 10 items in a month.	Must be AT LEAST 3 feet wide by 3 feet long to be considered a bulky item. Must not be larger than 4 feet by 6 feet and must not weigh more than 50 lbs. per piece. Any sharp objects or edges must be removed or covered.

SPECIAL ITEMS **NOT** COLLECTED

Not all items can be collected by normal garbage or recycling pickup due to state law or by the limitations of the contracted service. These items **MUST** be handled specially – residents can call for information.

Item NOT Collected	Note
Excessive amounts of regular garbage, recycling, or bulky items.	See limitations in city ordinance and regulations (above).
Yard Material	Invasive species are OK in the normal trash in clear plastic bags and labeled as "Invasive Species".
Medical Sharps Waste	Take to a proper 'sharps' drop off location.
Hazardous Waste	Take to a household hazardous waste drop off location.
Liquid Paint	Water based paint which has been <u>dried or empty paint cans</u> are OK in the normal trash. Oil based paint should be brought to the Household Hazardous Waste collection. Call Waukesha County for information.
Stones/Concrete/Bricks/Asphalt	Take to a proper drop-off location.
Small Remodel Waste Not Fitting in Trash Cart	Including shingles, drywall, random small scraps of wood, etc.
Lead Acid Batteries	Take to a proper recycling drop-off location.