



**Lee County
Solid Waste**

RESIDENT'S GUIDE **to Recycling and Waste Disposal** **in Lee County**



OUR MISSION

To ensure the health, safety and general welfare
of the citizens of Lee County
by providing a responsible and economical
solid waste management system.



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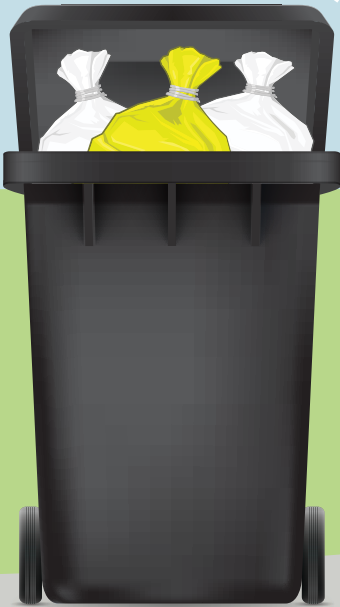
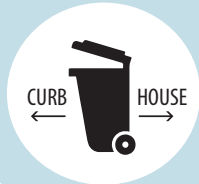
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SIX SIMPLE RULES FOR TAKING OUT YOUR TRASH

#1

Give 'em some room

Make sure there's at least three feet of space between your containers and anything else including mailboxes, other cans/carts, etc. Carts should open toward the street.



#2

Bag It!

Place your trash in securely-tied plastic bags to prevent litter and spilled trash.

#3

Don't dump unlawful debris

No household, pool or garden chemicals, or car batteries. Flammable substances do not belong in the cart.



See page 11 for details on proper chemical disposal.



#6

24/48



Don't set your containers out more than 24 hours before scheduled pick up. Remove empty cans within 48 hours after pick up. Your neighbors will thank you!

#5

Set it out on time

It takes an early start to keep Lee County clean! Everything you need to have collected that week should be at the curb by 6:30 a.m.

#4

Recyclables need room to move



Do not bag or "nest" your recyclables.

They need to be loose in the collection cart for easy processing.

Remember, plastic bags and shredded paper do not belong in the recycle cart.



Introduction to the Lee County Solid Waste Division

Each week you put your trash, yard waste and recyclables at the curb and may never think about where it goes. Or, maybe you think it's all hauled away and buried in a landfill somewhere - out of sight, out of mind.

That may be the case in many parts of the United States, but we do things differently in Lee County, Florida. We view waste as a resource. Lee County's integrated waste management system provides a financially responsible and environmentally sound approach to handling the community's waste stream, allowing Lee County residents to retain the value of their waste.

The Lee County Solid Waste management system includes the following components:

- A waste-to-energy facility
- A countywide curbside recycling program
- A material recycling facility
- A construction and demolition debris recycling facility
- A household chemical waste drop off facility
- A yard waste processing operation
- A compost production facility
- Five mulch distribution locations
- Two transfer stations in Hendry County
- The Lee/Hendry landfill
- A fleet maintenance shop



Creating energy from waste 24/7 since 1994



Each component of the system is designed to find the best use for incoming waste and minimize the amount sent to the landfill. The clean, renewable energy (electricity) created by combusting the lowest-value waste further reduces the community's demand for natural resources and diverts a large percentage of waste from the landfill.

By investing a few minutes to learn about proper recycling and disposal methods for household chemicals and other wastes, you can become a community steward and help ensure the natural beauty of Lee County is preserved for all to enjoy.

Lee County Solid Waste is a community partner with long-running public - private agreements for the operation and maintenance of the publically-owned disposal facilities listed and the hauling contracts for waste collection in unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach and the Village of Estero.

The cities of Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Sanibel provide for waste and recycling collection for their residents.



Trash Disposal

Curbside collection service -

Trash collection in unincorporated Lee County, Bonita Springs, Estero and Fort Myers Beach is determined by zip code. For current collection schedules, to determine the hauler for your area, and other questions about curbside trash collection, please visit **www.leegov.com/solidwaste** or call our friendly customer service staff at **239-533-8000**.

Residents in single family homes, duplexes, triplexes and quadraplexes receive:

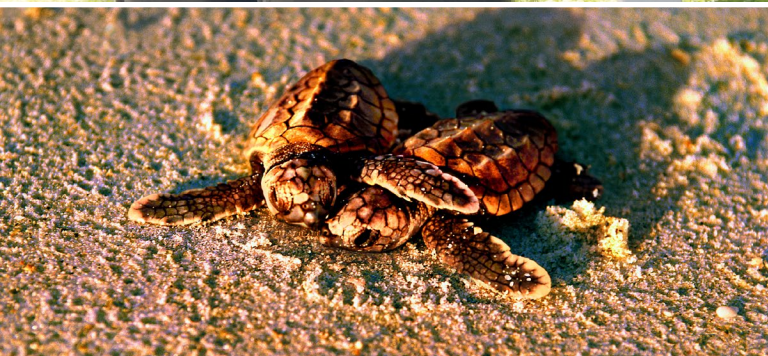
- Once-a-week curbside collection of garbage, recycling and yard waste

Each container must have no more than a 40 gallon capacity and weigh no more than 50 pounds - unless you have been provided a county-issued cart for automated collection.

- Once-a-week curbside collection of electronic devices (set next to regular trash)
- Curbside collection of up to two car tires (including rims) per week. Larger tires must be brought to the **Resource Recovery Facility at 10500 Buckingham Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33905** Call **239-533-8000** for separate pricing.
- Curbside collection of large, bulky items such as furniture, mattresses and fence sections



NOTE: Large household appliances can be collected curbside. We encourage a call to your hauler prior to set out.



Trash collection in Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Sanibel is coordinated by the municipality. Please contact your municipality with any questions.

Can't Wait?

If you are unable to wait for your regularly scheduled pick up, you can bring non-chemical items to the **Resource Recovery Facility's Citizen Drop Off area at 10500 Buckingham Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33905.**

You will be charged by weight.

For a current list of disposal fees, visit **www.leegov.com/solidwaste/adopted-solid-waste-rates**

We accept cash, check or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express).

Large items such as boats and recreational vehicles require special disposal arrangements. Please call our friendly customer service at 239-533-8000 for specific information.





Recycling

Curbside recycling is provided to single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes and quadraplexes throughout Lee County. One cart is provided at no charge to each household.

Multi-family residences generally have a central collection point on property – please check with your property manager for specific information.

RECYCLE SMART -

Only the FIVE materials listed on page 8 are accepted in your curbside cart or bin – you can put all five materials together; separate containers are not needed. Recyclables need room to move. Do not bag or “nest” your recyclables. They need to be loose in the collection cart for easy processing.



When in doubt, throw it out!



PAPER – All types of paper are accepted for recycling **except** soiled, shredded, metallic or waxed. Newspapers must be removed from plastic sleeves before being placed in your recycle cart.

METAL CANS – *Please rinse all aluminum, steel and tin cans before placing in the cart. Food residue contaminates the paper in your cart and makes it unacceptable for recycling.* Disposable foil pans that are free of food residue can also be recycled.

CARDBOARD – Any type of box that does not contain a waxed coating can be recycled. Break down larger boxes to allow more room in your cart. **Boxes that contained a liquid (broth, juice, milk, etc.) or frozen food have a waxed coating and cannot be processed.**

PLASTIC CONTAINERS – Only those containers labeled #1 - #7 are accepted in your cart. ***It is okay to leave the lids on the containers.*** Unmarked plastics are not accepted. Look for the recycling triangle, as shown to the left, on the bottom or side of the container.

GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS – Clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars are accepted. It is okay to leave the lids on the containers. ***Please rinse all food residue from the bottle or jar before placing it in the recycling cart. Food residue contaminates the paper in your cart and makes it unacceptable for recycling.***



Wishcycling:

Wish·cy·cling | wiSH'sīk(ə)līNG | *verb*

Tossing questionable items in the recycle bin, hoping they can somehow be recycled.



PLASTIC BAGS and STYROFOAM do not get recycled curbside even if they are marked with the recycling arrows. Plastic bags can be returned to most grocery stores, but do not belong in your curbside recycling cart; they wrap around the complex machinery required for sorting recyclables wasting both time and money. Styrofoam trays and egg cartons can also go back to the grocery store. Styrofoam used for packing material or other uses needs to go in the trash.



“STRINGY THINGS” that could get tangled up in the sorting equipment. There are 76 conveyor belts in the recycling plant that just don't work when wrapped in electric cords, garden hoses, sheets, bedding, etc. Donate, sell or dispose of these items.



CLOTHING, INCLUDING SHOES. These are reuse items; please sell or donate them.



SCRAP METAL. Only metal cans go in your recycle cart. You can sell your scrap metal at a scrap yard, donate usable items for reuse, or trash metal items you no longer want.



FOOD SCRAPS, DIAPERS, OR ANIMAL WASTE. These inappropriate items can contaminate an entire load of scrap paper rendering it useless for recycling.



Special Wastes

Some items require special precautions before disposal. Please call our friendly customer service staff at **239-533-8000** for specific information about disposing of any of the following:

- Asbestos
- Contaminated soil
- Oily waste
- Expired products
- Pharmaceuticals
- Weapons

NO PLASTIC BAGS IN YOUR RECYCLING CART

Billions of plastic bags are used annually in the United States yet less than 5 percent of them are recycled. *You can help change that!*

REDUCE – bring your own bags from home, ask the store checkout clerk for a paper bag, or evaluate whether you even need a bag.

REUSE – plastic bags can be used for many things around the home – lining bathroom wastebaskets, cleaning up pet waste, transporting wet items, etc. They are also loved by day cares, doggie day cares, thrift shops and food pantries. www.Pinterest.com has many great ideas for reusing plastic bags.

RECYCLE – Many grocery stores accept plastic bags and wraps for recycling. These include shopping bags, dry-cleaning bags, bread bags and wraps from paper towels, bathroom tissue, newspapers, etc.

For more information, please visit
www.abagslife.com



Household Chemical Waste

Many chemicals used around the house, pool and garden area can be harmful to your health or the environment if disposed of improperly. Fortunately, Lee County has a centrally located permanent collection facility at

6441 Topaz Court, Fort Myers, FL 33966.

Lee County residents may dispose of qualifying items at no charge.

Accepted materials include:

- Ammunition and Fireworks
- Antifreeze
- Batteries, including automotive and rechargeable household
- Cell Phones
- Cleaners
- Computer Components (these can also be placed curbside next to, but separated from, regular garbage)
- Cooking and Frying Oils
- E-Waste (this can also be placed curbside next to, but separated from, regular garbage)
- Fluorescent and Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Fertilizers
- Fire Extinguishers
- Fluorescent Bulb Ballasts
- Gasoline
- Lawn and Garden Chemicals
- Motor Oil



- Paints and Paint Thinners
NOTE – completely dry empty paint cans can be disposed of with your household trash.
- Pesticides
- Photographic and Pool Chemicals
- Propane tanks
- Solvents



Business Hazardous Waste

Businesses must make special arrangements to dispose of their hazardous wastes – it is **NOT accepted** at the Topaz Facility except during special collection events.

Please call our friendly customer service staff at **239-533-8000** for details about upcoming business collection events.

Information about Lee County programs for business and commercial pollution prevention can be found by visiting the Lee County Natural Resources website at **www.leegov.com/naturalresources/pollution-prevention**



Yard Waste

Lee County's sub-tropical climate provides for lush plant growth and lots of yard waste. Residents receive one curbside collection per week.

Yard waste must be containerized (50 pounds or less), or securely tied into bundles no heavier than 50 pounds and no longer than six feet in length.

Up to 50 pounds of unbundled palm fronds may be neatly stacked at the curb. Any excess palm fronds must be tied into bundles, each weighing 50 pounds or less.

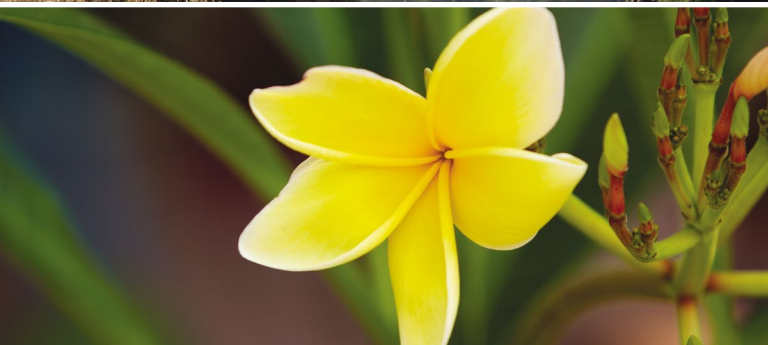
Call your waste hauler for a cost estimate for large-scale yard waste disposal projects. To determine the hauler for your area, please visit **www.leegov.com/solidwaste** or call our friendly customer service staff at **239-533-8000**.

SKIP THE BAG!

Yard waste is shredded for mulch and distributed at five locations around the county (see back cover for locations). It is also a primary component in OrganicLee® compost. Placing yard waste in a compostable paper bag, tub or reusable can rather than a plastic bag -

- Reduces plastic waste
- Leaves the yard waste ready for shredding and processing without time and labor spent separating plastic
- Results in a cleaner finished product

If you must use a plastic bag, please make sure that the contents can be easily identified by the hauler (leave a twig or small branch sticking out).



Fencing and ornamental wood borders are not yard waste or recycling. Please dispose of them with your household garbage.



OrganicLee® Compost

Lee County takes two waste streams – shredded yard waste and processed biosolids from local wastewater treatment plants – and produces award-winning compost that is a popular soil amendment for Southwest Florida's commercial and home growers.

Some of the benefits of OrganicLee® compost are:

- Improved soil structure and porosity – creating a better environment for plant root development
- Increased organic matter in native soils
- Improved moisture-holding capacity of light soils
- Increased presence of beneficial microorganisms in soil and growing media

OrganicLee® compost is available for purchase in bagged or bulk quantities. Please visit www.leegov.com/solidwaste or call our friendly customer service staff at **239-533-8000** for more details.



Solid Waste Storm Guide

Pre-Hurricane Maintenance

- Cut back any trees or branches that contact your house, pool cage, shed or other buildings.
- Thin foliage so wind can blow freely through branches, decreasing chances the plant will become uprooted during a storm.
- Place trimmings at the curb on your regular collection day. Yard waste must be placed in a container or securely tied into bundles no heavier than 50 pounds and no longer than six feet in length.
- Up to 50 pounds of unbundled palm fronds may be placed at the curb.

Once a storm has been named or a hurricane watch/warning has been issued:

- Do not cut down trees or do any major yard work. Mass cutting produces a burden on the normal collection process.
- Do not begin construction projects that produce debris unless absolutely necessary to protect life and property.
- Clear your property of any items that could become a projectile during a storm and place them at the curb on your regular waste collection day.
- Secure all debris and do not place materials of any kind at the curb during a Watch or Warning period.
- Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm. For information on the status of collection services and disposal facilities, residents should check **www. leegov. com/solidwaste** or monitor local media.



After the storm has passed:

- Most important – keep storm debris separate from your regular household garbage and recycling.
- Storm debris should be sorted into separate piles for vegetative debris, appliances and structural debris.
- Pick up will generally be done with a mechanized claw truck. Everything to be collected should be located away from buried electric/phone lines, mailboxes, and utility equipment including power poles, power lines, electric meters, fire hydrants, etc. Inspectors will tour each part of the county to determine where collection needs are greatest.
- Be patient. Following a storm, the No. 1 priority is collecting household garbage. Uncollected garbage attracts pests and can spread disease. Vegetative waste can wait.
- Debris collection guidance and recovery process updates will be available at **www.leegov.com/solidwaste**

Residents and visitors can watch for **Lee County Emergency Management** updates via social media channels on



Facebook (LCEMFL), and



Twitter (@LCEMFL and @LeeEOC).

Read the Lee County All Hazards Guide online at www.leegov.com/allhazardsguide

UF/IFAS Lee County Extension Services offers residents education and training on how to care for their Florida yards and neighborhoods at **www.leegov.com/parks/extension**. You can reach the Master Gardener help line at **239-533-7505**.

LOCATIONS AND HOURS

RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY- BUCKINGHAM CAMPUS

10500/10550 Buckingham Rd. • Fort Myers, FL 33905
239-533-8000

Monday – Wednesday 6:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday and Friday 6:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday 6:30 a.m. – noon

Home to the Waste to Energy Facility, Material Recycling Facility, Citizen Drop Off, Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Facility, Yard Waste Processing Operation, Fleet Maintenance Facility

TOPAZ COURT SOLID WASTE ANNEX

6441 Topaz Court • Fort Myers, FL 33966
239-533-8000

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**First Saturday of each month 8 a.m. – noon
(excluding holidays)**

Home to the Household Chemical Waste Facility and Customer Service

LEE/HENDRY REGIONAL LANDFILL

This facility is not open to the public for general dumping. If you have a boat or RV to dispose of, or have questions related to disposal of other wastes, please call our customer service representatives at **239-533-8000**.

Home to the Compost Production Facility

FREE MULCH DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS

Free mulch is available to all Lee County Residents at the following locations:

Bonita Springs – Imperial River Boat Ramp on U.S. 41 South

Lehigh Acres – County Park at Williams and W 5th St

North Fort Myers – County Park behind the library on Old U.S. 41

Pine Island – Near the Wastewater Treatment Plant east on Stringfellow Rd

South Fort Myers – Three Oaks Parkway, across from the Three Oaks Middle School

These locations are not attended.

You will need to bring your own containers and shovel, and load the mulch yourself.

Maps to each location are available at

www.leegov.com/solidwaste/facilities/mulch