

Solid Waste Regulations

Under City Code Chapter 26 of the City of Ann Arbor

~~May 29, 2025~~
January 15, 2026

REGULATION ADDITIONS TO CHAPTER 26. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Section numbers generally correspond to City Code Chapter 26 sections.
"R" indicates Regulations.

R2:1 Definitions

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R2:1 Definitions

Words that have been defined in City Code Chapter 26 have the same meaning in the Solid Waste Regulations.

- (1) **“Bundle”** means a collection of tree limbs, up to 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter and weighing up to 50 pounds, secured with string. If there is an operating agreement for the City’s Compost Facility in effect and it has a differing definition of “bundle,” then that definition shall prevail over this definition.
- (2) **“Commercial Customer”** means a location that receives Solid Waste collection services and is primarily used for commercial purposes, including selling goods or providing services for money. Commercial Customer includes mixed-use (Commercial and Residential) locations.
- (3) **“Curbcart Customer”** means a Commercial Customer or Residential Customer that receives all or a portion of its Solid Waste collection services from individually assigned and/or shared Curbcarts.
- (4) **“Customer”** means a Commercial Customer, Curbcart Customer, Dumpster Customer, or a Residential Customer.
- (5) **“Dumpster Customer”** means a Commercial Customer or Residential Customer that receives all or a portion of its Solid Waste collection services from individually assigned and/or shared Dumpsters.
- (2) **“Compactor”** means a machine consisting of both a container to collect waste and a machine or mechanism designed to compress, reduce, and compact Solid Waste or Recyclables through hydraulic, mechanical, or pneumatic force into smaller sizes. A Compactor can have a vertical or horizontal orientation.
- (6)(3) **“Electronic Waste”** means any unwanted electronic device or cathode ray tube (CRT). Typical Electronic Waste includes but is not limited to televisions (CRT, LCD, OLED, plasma, etc.), computers/laptops and their peripheral devices, monitors, printers, mobile phones, radios and other appliances.
- (7)(4) **“Food Scrap”** refers to uneaten food and food preparation wastes from residences and commercial establishments (such as grocery stores, restaurants, and produce stands), institutional sources (such as school cafeterias), and industrial sources (employee lunchrooms), and excludes food processing waste from agricultural and industrial operations

(8)(5) "Proof of Residency" means any evidence that establishes or verifies an individual's claim of residence. This evidence is usually an official government document that contains an individual's legal name and current address. Examples of documents used to prove City of Ann Arbor residency include the following when inclusive of a valid City of Ann Arbor property address: a valid Michigan driver's license, a valid Michigan ID, a valid Washtenaw County ID, a current City of Ann Arbor voter registration card, a recent City of Ann Arbor property tax receipt, a current utility bill with a residential address, a current unexpired rent or lease agreement, and a notarized declaration of residency by the owner or manager of a rental property.

(9)(6) "Recycling Containers" means a ~~Curbcart~~Curb Cart, Dumpster, or other container provided or approved by the City for the purpose of collecting materials for Recycling. Recycling Containers shall be used for the containment and service of all acceptable Recyclables allowed under the City's recycling program. Recycling Containers may not be used for any other purpose.

(10)(7) "Resident" means a current occupant of a Residential Unit located within the City of Ann Arbor. The term does not include Commercial ~~locations~~(Non-Residential Locations)~~Customers~~ and property managers.

(11) "Residential Customer" means a location that receives Solid Waste collection services and is a Dwelling as defined by Chapter 105, Section 8:500 of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor and is primarily used for residential purposes. Residential Customer does not include mixed-use (Commercial and Residential) locations.

(12) "Recycling Compliance Plan and Recycling Compliance Report" means the annual report and plan submitted by commercial locations seeking to be exempt from use of the City provided recycling service with such filings being submitted on a timely basis, and be administratively complete in the format and with the content specified by the City's administrative procedures.

(13) "Solid Waste Containers" means containers such as Dumpsters and Curbearns approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee that are sufficient to hold all Solid Waste generated by a Customer between regular collections. For the collection of organics/compost, paper yard waste bags with a filled weight up to 50 pounds are also permitted in addition to Curbearns.

R2:2 Collection frequency and fees

R2:2 City Collection of Solid Waste

- (1) Refuse and Recyclables ~~are~~will only be collected from approved Solid Waste Containers.
- (2) Compostables will only be collected from approved Solid Waste Containers and in Bundles.
- (3) ~~Residential Curbcart Customers receive once a week Refuse and Recycling collection provided by the City or its contracted hauler.~~ Collection days are assigned on a geographic basis by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee.
- (4) Residential ~~Curbcart~~Curb Cart Customer compost collection operates weekly Spring through Fall. The operation dates are generally from the first full week of April through the last full week of November, unless extended by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee. Winter compost collection is generally operated with once-a-month collection in the months of January, February, and March. Only Curb Carts may be used for winter collection of ~~winter~~ compost ~~occurs~~ in ~~Curbcarts~~Curb Carts only. Bundle and~~There is no bundle or~~ bag collection ~~is not included~~for winter compost collection.
- (5) Yard waste bag collection is limited to 10 bags per set-out except during the fall leaf season (generally occurring early-October until the end of November unless extended by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee), when the limit is 20 bags per set-out. The dates for fall leaf season are posted annually by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee.
- (6) Compost collection is limited to Residential ~~Curbcart~~Curb Cart Customers located along a public street and other existing ~~Curbcart~~Curb Cart Customers that receive compost collection through prior pilot programs, but were not discontinued such service. Other Residential Customers may be considered for curbside compost service if approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee.
- (7) Dumpster Customers receive Solid Waste collection for Recyclables on a schedule to be determined by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee.
- (8) All Commercial Dumpster Customers receive Refuse collection through the City's ~~Franchised~~Franchise Hauler. Residential Dumpster Customers receive Refuse collection once per week either by the City or by the City's Franchised Hauler at the City's expense. Residential Dumpster Customers, with more than one Dumpster may have multiple Dumpsters serviced on the same day and time at the City's expense (i.e., no return trips). Additional Dumpster service is at the expense

of the Residential Dumpster Customer and is billed by the ~~Franchised Franchise~~ Hauler.

- (9) The City may require an increase in Refuse collection frequency and/or Solid Waste Container capacity for Commercial Customers and Residential Customers ~~in order~~ to protect ~~the~~ public health, safety, and welfare. Any associated service fees for such a required increase shall be ~~covered paid~~ by the Customer.
- (10) The City may also mandate an increase in Refuse collection frequency for Commercial Customers in the ~~DDA~~Downtown Development Area during a temporary time period for major events, such as the Annual Ann Arbor Art Fair. Any associated service fees for such a required increase shall be ~~covered paid~~ by the Customer.
- (11) If a Commercial Customer has City Refuse collection service, applicable fees for the collection of Refuse shall be charged quarterly in advance based on the average amount of Refuse material and the frequency of collection and shall be set by the City Administrator, subject to approval by City Council. If the charges are not paid, they may be assessed against the property pursuant to section 1:292 of Chapter 13 of this Code.
- (12) For Residential Customers, the City will provide additional emptying of Refuse and/or Recyclables Containers on a pre-arranged, pre-paid basis after scheduling the service in advance.
- (13) Solid waste collectors generally observe the following six holidays each year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. On these specific holidays, the W. R. Wheeler Service Center is closed and there is no Solid Waste collection. During weeks when one of these holidays occurs, Solid Waste collection for the days on and following the holiday will occur one day later. Exceptions to the standard holiday observation schedule may occur provided exceptions are publicly communicated through the City's website and other established City communication methods.
- (14) The rate structure for ~~commercial solid waste service rates and Solid Waste Service for Commercial Customers~~ charges shall:
 - a. Take into account Solid Waste volume and ~~frequency of~~ collection frequency;
 - b. Provide an incentive to recycle;
 - c. Not present barriers to recycling and waste reduction;
 - d. Include cost allocation systems to accommodate/encourage shared Dumpster use where practical;

- e. Cover costs for contracted services; and
- f. Include cost recovery for applicable capital infrastructure.

(15) ~~As of July 1, 2011, exemption from the City Waste Franchise for refuse collection is no longer available. Exemption from the City Waste Franchise for recycling collection is available if necessary, under certain circumstances.~~ The fees for the collection of commercial Solid Waste, as approved by City Council under Chapter 26, Section 2:5(4)(iv) and (v),~~2(3)~~ shall be applied to all users of the City's franchised Franchise Hauler with the following exceptions:

- a. Other governmental units: Federal, State (including the University of Michigan), and County buildings within the City are exempt from complying with the requirement of being serviced by ~~the~~ exclusive Solid Waste franchisee Franchise Haulers selected by the City. Governmental units can enter into their own contract for Solid Waste collection with the City's exclusive franchisee Franchise Haulers. Governmental units can also choose to join the City's ~~Commercial Solid Waste~~ Franchise ~~Collection~~ Agreement with any Franchise Hauler, but then the governmental unit must abide by all of the terms, conditions, and limitations in the scope of the City's ~~Commercial Solid Waste~~ Franchise ~~Collection~~ Agreement.
- b. Non-Profit Rate Exemption: Non-profit customers that are classified as 501(c)(3) and are further defined as public charities under 509(a)(2) may qualify for Refuse Dumpster service at no charge. These types of organizations must meet two tests under IRS rules to be given a 509(a)(2) classification. See IRS Publication 557 for a discussion of this type of non-profit. Churches, Educational Organizations (schools or colleges), hospitals, and governments are defined as 509(a)(1) organizations and are not exempt from Refuse Dumpster fees. This Refuse Dumpster service is limited to collection once per week.

R2:32.1 Point of Collection

- (1) Solid Waste points of collection must be located within the boundaries of the serviced property except that Curb Cart Customers may place Curb Carts in the right of way on collection day for collection.
- (2) Customers must ensure that Solid Waste Containers are accessible to Solid Waste collection equipment and are not blocked on collection days. Solid Waste Containers blocked by vehicles, delivery trucks, ice, snow or any other object will not be serviced. Parking lots, driveways, and walkways around Solid Waste Containers must be cleared and treated for safe accessibility of service personnel and vehicles, including snow removal, by Customers and/or their site owners or

managers. Solid Waste Containers that are not accessible through parking lots, driveways, and walkways due to snow or ice will not be serviced.

(3) If access to a Solid Waste Container is blocked, the Customer must wait until the next regularly scheduled collection day for the Solid Waste Container to be emptied. If collection of the Solid Waste Container is desired prior to the next regularly scheduled collection day, the Customer must call the assigned service provider to make arrangements for that additional collection. Such additional collections will be subject to a separate fee.

(4) The Customer must pick up all Solid Waste found outside of Solid Waste Containers to keep the area clean.

(5) The following applies to Curb Carts:

(1)a. Residential Curb Carts Customers shall place Refuse, Recyclables, and Compostables (seasonal) Curb Carts at the curb or designated collection site before 7 a.m. on the weekly collection day.

(2)b. Curb Carts shall be properly placed at their designated collection location on collection day to maximize automated collection efficiencies.

a.(i) Place Curb Carts at the curb no more than 24 hours ahead of collection time if serviced from the curb.

b.(ii) Place Curb Carts at the curb in a direction so that the front bar and lid opening face the street side.

c.(iii) Allow a minimum of three (3) feet between Curb Carts and any other obstacles, such as utility poles, trees, mailboxes, parked vehicles, etc.

d.(iv) Curb Carts may not be placed for collection beneath tree branches, wires or overhangs lower than fifteen (15) feet.

e.(v) Acceptable variations are to set the Curb Cart in the drive approach near the street or on the extension, next to the curb. In certain situations, the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee may specify exact collection locations for Curb Carts.

f.(vi) Curb Carts may not be placed in the street where there are marked bike lanes.

i. If a bicycle lane or bicycle path is protected by a raised concrete or bollarded buffer: a Curb Cart shall be placed on

the buffer. If the buffer is unable to accommodate a Curb Cart because it is not wide enough, is covered with snow, or otherwise blocked, a Curb Cart shall be placed in the owner or occupant's driveway, next to the street.

- ii. If a bicycle lane or bicycle path is protected by a painted non-bollarded buffer: a Curb Cart shall be placed within the painted buffer. If the buffer is unable to accommodate a Curb Cart because it is not wide enough, is covered with snow, or otherwise blocked, a Curb Cart shall be placed on a lawn extension as close to the curb as possible. If the lawn extension will not accommodate a curb cart because of its slope, vegetation, or other impediment, a Curb Cart shall be placed in the owner or occupant's driveway, next to the street.
- iii. If a bicycle lane or bicycle path is not protected by a buffer: a Curb Cart shall be located on the lawn extension as close to the curb as possible. If the lawn extension will not accommodate a Curb Cart because of its slope, vegetation, or other impediment, a Curb Cart shall be placed in the owner or occupant's driveway, next to the street.
- iv. For locations without bicycle lanes or bicycle paths: a Curb Cart shall be placed next to the curb in the street or on the lawn extension. If the lawn extension will not accommodate a curb cart because of its slope, vegetation, or other impediment, a curb cart shall be placed in the owner or occupant's driveway, next to the street. If there is no lawn extension, a Curb Cart shall be placed on the sidewalk, next to the curb.

(3)c. For CurbeartCurb Cart Customers served by an alley, the point of collection may be adjacent to the alley or at the street if the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee determines that it is a preferable point for collection.

(6) The following applies to Dumpsters:

- a. Residential Dumpster Customers must purchase and provide a Dumpster to receive City-provided collection once per week at no cost.
- (4)b. Dumpsters shall be placed for service in a location pre-approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee to permit safe access by solid waste collection vehicles and operators. Refer to the Solid Waste Details in Article 12 of the Public Services Standard Specifications for additional requirements.

(5) The site owner and/or manager must ensure that Solid Waste Containers are accessible to solid waste collection equipment and are not blocked on collection days. Dumpsters and Curbcarts blocked by vehicles, delivery trucks, ice, snow or any other object will not be serviced. Parking lots, driveways, and walkways around Solid Waste Containers must be cleared and treated for safe accessibility of service personnel and vehicles, including snow removal, by the site owner and/or manager. Dumpsters and Curbcarts frozen in or blocked by snow and ice will not be serviced.

(6) If access to a Solid Waste Container is blocked, the site owner and/or manager must wait until the next regularly scheduled collection day for the Solid Waste Container to be emptied. If collection of the Solid Waste Container is desired prior to the next regularly scheduled collection day, the site owner and/or manager must call the assigned service provider to make arrangements for that additional collection. Such additional collections will be subject to a separate fee.

(7) The Customer must pick up all Solid Waste found outside of Solid Waste Containers to keep the area clean.

(8) Solid Waste must be separated and placed into their respective Solid Waste Containers; specifically Refuse must be in refuse containers; Recyclables must be in recycling containers; yard waste must be properly bagged, bundled or placed in compost containers and Food Scraps must be in compost containers where applicable. All Solid Waste must be fully contained within the property's Solid Waste Container meeting the weight limits and without overflowing items. Solid Waste Containers that are improperly prepared will not be serviced.

R2:4 Points of storage

- (7) Turnarounds must be located within 100 feet of the point of collection unless otherwise approved by the Public Services Area Administrator.
- (8) All access routes to any point of collection shall not have a grade that exceeds 9%.
- (9) Points of collection shall not be configured so as to require a total backing distance of more than 30 feet for collection trucks to be able to \exit the point of collection area.

R2:2.2 Points of storage

- (1) Solid Waste points of storage must be located within the boundaries of the serviced property, except that a point of storage may be located outside the boundaries of a serviced property if either an appropriate easement is obtained or the serviced property has been approved to share containers with another serviced property.
- (2) Dumpsters shall not be serviced in the public right-of-way unless otherwise approved by the Public Services Area Administrator.
- (3) All Solid Waste Containers must be placed and co-located within the same storage area to allow Customers equal ease of access to all Solid Waste Containers, including containers for Refuse, Recyclables, and Compostables.
- (4) Solid Waste stored around buildings and in alleys must be contained to prevent the blowing of litter and deny access to Solid Waste by vermin. Dumpster ~~and Curbcart~~ Customers, Curb Cart Customers, and Compactors shall repackage torn bags, collect and properly contain debris from tipped Solid Waste Containers to ensure that all materials are properly contained for collection. It is the responsibility of the Customer to maintain a clean Solid Waste storage area.
- (5) Customers must remedy the effects of vandalism on Solid Waste ~~Curb~~Curb Carts and Dumpsters.
- (6) Dumpster locations must be pre-approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee to permit safe access by Solid Waste collection vehicles and their operators. Dumpster configuration details are located in Article 12 of the Public Services Standard Specifications.
- (7) Space designated for Solid Waste Containers shall be used solely for this purpose. Storage of other items, including ~~fats/oils~~Grease containers, is not permitted without pre-approval from the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee..

(5)(8) Dumpster placement, screening, landscaping must comply with the provisions of City Code Chapter 55 Unified Development Code (UDC). Commercial Customers shall provide screening as required by Chapter 55.

R2:5 Solid waste containers

(1) GENERAL CONTAINER REQUIREMENTS

(9) Customers are responsible for maintaining any enclosures and/or gates for Solid Waste Containers. Customers must ensure that all enclosures and/or gates are open and accessible for collection before the collection time. Commercial Customers with shared Curb Carts or Dumpsters share equal responsibility for maintenance and access to enclosures and/or gates.

R2:2.3 Solid Waste Containers

(1) General Container Requirements

(A)a. Prior to the placement of any Solid Waste Container(s),Containers, the owner must receive approval from the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee in order as to the size, type, style, number, and location of all Solid Waste Containers to ensure that all requested Solid Waste Containers (including size, type and style) are compatible with Solid Waste service equipment used for the area and appropriate for the location being serviced.

(B)b. Residential Dumpster Customers must provideprocure and maintain their own Refuse Dumpsters, including functional lids. If a Customer-owned Refuse Dumpster becomes unserviceable, it is the responsibility of the Dumpster Customer to make all necessary repairs to the Dumpster to ensure it is serviceable. All Commercial Dumpster Customers must use Dumpsters provided through the City's Refuse FranchisedFranchise Hauler.

(C)c. Solid Waste must be properly prepared for collection and contained inside approved Solid Waste Containers to avoid littering. Paper products and other loose debris must be covered to avoid blowing.

d. Solid Waste must be separated and placed into its respective Solid Waste Containers:

- (i) specifically, Refuse must be in Refuse containers;
- (ii) Recyclables must be in Recycling containers;
- (iii) yard waste must be properly bagged, bundled or placed in compost containers, backyard composted, or hauled to the City's Compost Facility or another permitted Compost Facility, and Food Scraps must be in compost containers where applicable.

e. All Solid Waste must be fully contained within the property's Solid Waste Container meeting the weight limits and without overflowing items. Solid Waste Containers that are improperly prepared will not be serviced.

(D)f. Damaged CurbeartsCurb Carts with jagged edges that pose a safety risk to service personnel will not be collected. It is the responsibility of the CurbeartCurb Cart Customer to report CurbeartCurb Cart damage to the City for replacement.

(E)g. Liquid and food debris must be removed from all Recyclables to ensure that insects and other animal pests are not attracted to the Solid Waste Container. Failure to properly empty and rinse out Recyclables will result in these materials being rejected for service. Solid Waste Containers for Recyclables must bybe clean of this debris before they are serviced.

(F)h. CurbeartsCurb Carts are the property of the City and may not be removed from the specific address to which the CurbeartCurb Cart has been issued.

(G)i. Solid Waste Containers may not exceed the maximum weight limit specified for the Solid Waste Container.

(H)j. The fees for the cost and delivery, servicing, and replacement of CurbeartsCurb Carts will be determined by City Council resolution and will be invoiced to the property owner. Nonpayment of the invoice will result in the costs being assessed against the property owner pursuant to section 2:5 of Chapter 26.

(I)k. The size, number, and type of Solid Waste Containers assigned to a Customer is dependent on the amount of Solid Waste expected to be generated each week and is subject to approval by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee. In general, Residential Customers in single-family homes with individual Curb Carts are assigned a 64-gallon Refuse Container, a 64-gallon Recycling Container, and a 64-gallon Compost Container. Commercial Customers and Residential Customers in multi-family homes are assigned Solid Waste Containers with sufficient capacity to contain Solid Waste generated at those locations.

(J)l. Planning Petitions and any location with a proposed change of use that will impact Solid Waste are required to provide the following information on plans submitted to the Public Services Area.

(1)l. Detailed waste generation calculations for the proposed use(s), specifying waste for both Refuse and Recyclables and demonstrate that on-site storage capacity is sufficient for the proposed collection method. Each property shall provide sufficient capacity in

appropriately sized Solid Waste Containers to minimize the number of collection days and tips per week.

(2)(ii) Show where Solid Waste Containers will be stored prior to collection and label with the size(s) and type of Solid Waste stored. Solid Waste Containers must be stored in a building or screened from view from the public Right-of-Way.

(3)(iii) Show where Solid Waste Containers will be collected, which may or may not be the same place where they are stored, and label with the size and type of Solid Waste stored within.

(4)(iv) Provide a Solid Waste narrative stating necessary solid waste information that cannot be depicted on a plan, minimally including:

a. Proposed number of service days per week for each type of Solid Waste collected.

b. A description of responsibilities necessary for Solid Waste service, such as, if Solid Waste Containers must be staged for collection; where Solid Waste Containers will be staged for collection; who is responsible for staging Solid Waste Containers for collection and returning them to their stored location.

c. Necessary parking restrictions to prevent blocked access to collection locations.

(5)m. Solid Waste collected in Dumpsters will be serviced from an enclosure unless otherwise approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee. Enclosures shall conform to the Solid Waste Details in Article 12 of the Public Services Standard Specifications. Enclosures shall be fully dimensioned, internal and external, on the plans.

(6)n. Enclosures modified from the details in Article 12 of the Public Services Standard Specifications are subject to approval by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee. A minimum of two (2) feet must be provided between Dumpsters and enclosure walls.

(7)o. Enclosures shall not be located within a utility easement.

(8)p. The proposed swept path of the Solid Waste vehicle shall be shown on the plans, meeting the clearance requirements noted in Article 12 of the Public Services Standard Specifications. The maximum reversing distance on private property is thirty (30) feet.

(9)q. Forward access from private property to the public Street is required for the Solid Waste truck when Solid Waste Containers are collected on private

property. An alternative arrangement may be approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee for properties that cannot provide forward access due to severe space constraints, site grade changes that cannot be mitigated, or other unique circumstances.

(10r.) The Public Services Area Administrator or their designee assigns the type of Solid Waste Container used for each property/site planned location.

a.(i) Refuse and Recyclables generated by a Commercial Customer will be serviced with Dumpsters except when approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee to be serviced by a CurbeartCurb Cart.

b.(ii) Refuse and Recyclables generated by Residential Customers will be serviced in a CurbeartCurb Cart or Dumpster based on the following criteria:

Dwelling Unit Style	Curb Cart Service Setout Location	Does Required Public or Private** Street Frontage exist to allow for all required Curb Carts?	Is the Public or Private** Street Accessible for Automated (Side Arm) Collection Truck Service?	Solid Waste Container Type
Detached	Public or Private Street	Yes	Yes	Curb Cart
Detached	Public or Private Street	No	n/a	Dumpster
Detached	Private Driveway	Yes	Yes	Curb Cart
Detached	Private Driveway	n/a	n/a	Dumpster
Attached	Public Street	Yes	Yes	Curb Cart
Attached	Public Street	No	n/a	Dumpster
Attached	Private Driveway	No	n/a	Dumpster

*In some of the scenarios which answer "Yes" to the required street frontage to allow Curb Carts as the Solid Waste Container for a development, each unit is a calculation of estimated waste generated for the whole development and by unit, which is based on a presumption of waste generated per person.

**A private street must meet the criteria described in the UDC Section 5.21.3 Private Street Standards to answer Yes to the above questions pertaining to private streets.

(2) PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR "COMPOSTABLES"

(iii) Multi-family units that qualify for Curb Cart service will be assigned Curb Carts based on capacity needs and available curb space.

(2) Preparation Requirements For "Compostables"

(A)a. Branches larger than 6 inches in diameter, tree stumps, and other vegetative debris that does not meet the definition of a Bundle will not be collected by the City.

b. Except as provided in this subsection, curbside-collected compostables do not include sod, dirt, stones, refuse, non-vegetative food waste or other prohibited materials listed in section R2:6. Vegetative food waste may be placed in City-issued compost Curbcarts. Uncoated paper plates and paper cups, and unbleached paper napkins and brown paper towels may be placed in the City-issued compost Curbcart. Acceptable Compostables are those currently accepted by the City's Compost Facility. An up-to-date list of allowed materials can be found on the City's website.

(B)c. Unbleached cardboard and non-glossy newspaper may be used as a liner for compost carts for winter compost collection to help keep the compost cart clean for vegetative food waste disposal. Any items contaminated by dairy or meat will not be accepted. With the exception of City-issued compost Curbcarts, all other collection containers (including 30-gallon paper bags) are prohibited from including grass clippings. Leaves may be placed in paper yard bags. Grass clippings and Food Scrap must be placed in a Curb Cart. Bundles must be placed at the curb or edge of pavement for collection.

(C)d. Residents may bring their grass clippings and up to one cubic yard of yard waste and/or Food Scrap per visitday at no charge to the W. R. Wheeler Service Center. Additional quantities brought on the same visitday may be brought to the W. R. Wheeler Service Center for a fee. Commercial entitiesCustomers and nonresidents may use this facility for compostables on a for-fee basis.

(D)e. The City's compost program provides free finished compost and/or mulch to residents of the City, not to exceed 1,000 cubic yards of finished compost and/or mulch per year. The finished compost and/or mulch will be distributed at the City's Compost Site on Saturday mornings in the Spring, unless the City chooses a different method of distribution. This distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis. City will provide a schedule to the Compost Contractor (via email) and to the public (through the website and social media) by April 1st of each year. Residents will be limited to one (1) cubic yard of free finished compost and/or mulch per household per year and will be responsible for shoveling and loading the finished compost and/or mulch with their own equipment and containers. Residents will be required to scale in at the Scalehouse and provide proof of residency meeting the City's requirements.

(E)f. The City has developed a program that allows for leaves to be delivered to the City's Compost Site by residents or their contracted landscapers at no charge to the resident or landscaper. This program takes place during a 90-day period in the Fall each year. City will provide a schedule to the Compost Contractor (via email) and to the public (through the City's website and social media) by October 1st of each year. Residents must show proof of

residency for this free service. Contracted landscapers will need to certify that the leaves come from a residential property within City limits.

(3) PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL RECYCLABLES

(3) Preparation Requirements For Residential Recyclables

(A)a. Acceptable Recyclables are those currently accepted for recycling by the City or its recycling provider. An up-to-date list of allowed materials can be found on the City's website.

(B)b. Residents must separate their Recyclables from their household Refuse and place them in the Recycling Collection Container provided or approved by the City. Recyclables must not be mixed with Refuse, Compostables or Garbage (Food Waste).

(C)c. The following are guidelines for preparing materials to be placed in City-approved Recycling Containers:

•(i) All glass bottles and jars must be empty and dry. Do not include tops.

•(ii) All aluminum, tin and steel beverage and product containers must be empty and rinsed clean.

•(iii) All plastic bottles, tubs, and containers must be empty and rinsed clean. ~~Do not include plastic lids or caps.~~

•(iv) All cardboard and boxboard must be empty and flattened.

•(v) Recyclables must be loose and unbagged when placed in the Recycling Container

•(vi) Do not include the following materials in the City-approved recycling carts: plastic bags, Styrofoam, plastic film, plastic wrap, shredded paper, batteries or electronics, bulky plastics or scrap metal, tanglers (hoses, wires, chains, electronics).

(D)d. The City may conduct special recycling pilots or seasonal collection programs.

(E)e. Additional items are accepted for recycling at the Drop-Off Station as described in R2:75.

~~(4) COMMERCIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION~~

(4) Commercial Recycling Collection

(A)a. All Commercial Customers shall separate Recyclables in the same fashion as required of Residential Customers.

Commercial Customers must use assigned Recycling Containers provided by the City's recycling program unless otherwise approved by the Public Services Area Administrator or their designee. Commercial Customers must participate in the City's recycling program or demonstrate compliance with the City's recycling program by requesting an exemption, submitting and securing approval from the City annually for a qualified and administratively complete Recycling Compliance Plan and Recycling Compliance Report. Commercial Customers that use the City's recycling program and are in compliance with all of its requirements shall be automatically included in the City's recycling compliance plan and reporting system. All other Commercial Customers must submit their Recycling Compliance Plan and Recycling Compliance Report to document that the Commercial Customer has established a recycling program, other than the City's provided service, or in addition to the City's provided service, that demonstrates capacity to meet all requirements of the City's program covered by the Code and these regulations, including the requirement to keep specified Recyclables separated from Solid Waste.

(B)b. Alternative methods for handling commercial Recyclables are available at the City's Drop-Off Station.

(C)c. For Commercial Customers, all cardboard boxes placed in recycling dumpsters must be flattened. Cardboard collected along commercial street and alley collection routes must be flattened and placed inside a **Curbcart** with the lid closed. No Recyclables or cardboard will be serviced outside a city-approved container. Exceptions may be made by the City's Public Services Area Administrator or their designee.

(D)d. The City will not collect recyclable toxic material from regulated Commercial Customers including businesses and institutions as regulated under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6901 et seq, as amended.

R2:63 City Franchise Solid Waste Haulers

(1) All Franchise Haulers must meet all standards and specifications regarding performance, service, fees, and Solid Waste collection as required by the applicable Franchise Agreement.

(2) All Franchise Haulers shall indemnify, defend, and hold the City and its officers, employees, and agents harmless from all suits, claims, judgments, and expenses, including attorney's fees, resulting or alleged to result, from an act or omission by the Franchise Hauler or Franchise Hauler's employees or agents occurring in the performance or breach of the Franchise Agreement, except to the extent that any suit, claim, judgment, or expense are finally judicially determined to have resulted from the City's negligence, willful misconduct, or failure to comply with a material obligation of the Franchise Agreement.

(3) All Franchise Haulers shall procure and maintain from the Effective Date of the Franchise Agreement through the conclusion of the Franchise Agreement, such insurance policies, including those required by the Franchise Agreement, as will protect itself and the City from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage that may arise under this Agreement; whether the act(s) or omission(s) giving rise to the claim were made by the Franchise Hauler, its subcontractor, or anyone employed by the Franchise Hauler or its subcontractor directly or indirectly.

R2:4 Prohibited material additions

(1) **PROHIBITED MATERIALS****Prohibited Materials.** No person may place any of the materials specified below in a Solid Waste Container:

- a. Explosive, radioactive or other hazardous material such as ammunition, smoke detectors, gasoline, turpentine, or any flammable materials, grease, pesticides or asbestos.
- b. Oil filters, motor oil, rechargeable and/or non-alkaline household batteries and car batteries.
- c. Items that may damage equipment, pose a safety threat to service staff or the environment, and/or are regulated by the state or Federal government shall not be placed in any Solid Waste Container serviced by the City. These include pianos, garage doors, heavy metal parts, fuel and propane tanks, automobile, truck or other vehicular parts and tires. This also includes large construction debris, such as concrete, rocks, bricks, mortar, cement, tar, railroad ties, logs over 6 inches in diameter and tree stumps.
- d. Liquid waste, as defined by Michigan Public Act 641, the Solid Waste Management Act of 1979.
- e. Medical waste (as defined in Part 138 of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended), from all Commercial Customers. Commercial medical waste must be stored on site and collected for disposal all in compliance with state commercial medical waste regulations.

- f. Unused and partially full containers of household hazardous products (such as pesticides, drain cleaners, automotive fluids and oil paints).

(2) REGULATED MATERIALS WITH SPECIAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

(2) Regulated Materials With Special Preparation Requirements

The following specially regulated materials shall not be placed in ~~a~~ Solid Waste Containers for collection unless they are prepared as specified below:

- a. Residential medical waste including hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets (also known as "sharps") will not be collected unless handled as follows:
 - (i) The used residential sharps must be stored in a sturdy plastic jug, which is labeled "Sharps, Dispose of Properly." When full, the jug is to be taped securely shut and placed inside a residential trash bag. Under no circumstance should sharps containers be placed in ~~in~~ a Solid Waste Container for Recyclables.
 - (ii) The preferred method for handling used residential sharps is to store them in a commercially-available sharps container. When full, the container is taken to a participating pharmacy for proper disposal in compliance with state commercial medical waste regulations. Call Washtenaw County for a list of participating pharmacies.
- b. Diapers, kitty litter, animal feces, and small dead animals under one pound will not be collected unless first placed in sealed, double-plastic bags.
- c. Sawdust and cold ashes must be placed in sealed plastic bags.
- d. Paint cans will not be collected unless prepared in one of the following ways:
 - (i) Dry, empty metal latex paint cans with the lids removed, and empty aerosol cans, may be placed in the Refuse container.
 - (ii) Water-based paint containers up to 1/3 full must be solidified (such as through evaporation or the addition of kitty litter, peat moss or soil) and placed with other Refuse in the Customer's Solid Waste Container for Refuse with the paint container lid tightly sealed.
 - (iii) Cans of unused oil-~~base~~base paint are prohibited from Michigan landfills and must be taken to Washtenaw County's Home Toxics Reduction Program.

- e. Electronic Waste will not be collected by the City. Residents and commercial locations are encouraged to recycle Electronic Waste at the Drop-Off Station, reuse operations or to use the manufacturer's product return programs.
- f. Washtenaw County operates a Home Toxics Reduction Program and Referral Center for proper disposal of many hazardous residential products.

R2:~~75~~ Solid waste facilities

(1) W. R. Wheeler Service Center

The City provides comprehensive solid waste management, recovery and disposal services at the W. R. Wheeler Service Center located at 4150 Platt Road.

(A)a. Proof of City residency, as defined in section R2:1, may be required for depositing certain materials or receiving preferential fees. For the purposes of this section, any of the following shall be considered proof of residency: a current water bill with an Ann Arbor residential address, voter registration form or other document issued by the City only to residents.

(B)b. Fees may apply for various services as determined by resolution of City Council or in Council-approved contracts.

(C)c. Hours of operation may vary.

~~(2) DROP-OFF STATION~~

(2) Drop-Off Station

The Drop-Off Station is located at 2950 East Ellsworth Road in Ann Arbor and is operated by third-party contractor. The third-party operator establishes the range of services, fees, hours of operation, and acceptable items.

(A)a. All recyclables are accepted for the residential curbside recycling collection program.

(B)b. Additional recyclables are accepted at this facility, including vehicle batteries, household batteries, motor oil, oil filters, larger-sized scrap metal, Styrofoam, #2 and #4 plastic bags, and flattened corrugated cardboard up to 6 feet in length.

(C)c. Scrap metal. Scrap metal includes bicycles, lawnmowers, lawn furniture, odd pieces of aluminum siding and pipes. All fluids must be drained.

(D)d. Household appliances. Household appliances, such as refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, dehumidifiers and dishwashers. A per-appliance fee is charged, which includes the cost for Freon-removal.

(E)e. Compostables. Compostables, as defined in Chapter 26 of the City Code and including grass clippings, may be dropped off for a fee.

f. F—Municipal Solid Waste and Construction Debris. Includes all non-hazardous municipal solid waste, such as carpeting, mattresses, furniture, trash, and building debris, drywall, shingles, plywood, painted or treated wood, concrete with steel, and bricks.

(G)g. Other materials at the option of the facility operator.

(3) MATERIALS RECOVERY & TRANSFER FACILITY

(3) Materials Recovery & Transfer Facility

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF), located at the W. R. Wheeler Service Center, accepts and processes recyclables as determined by the operator.

- a. Customers to the MRF must pre-arrange through the City's contracted MRF operator to deliver recyclables to the MRF. Customers must call the contracted MRF operator for more information.
- b. Fees for the use of the MRF are pre-arranged by the operator.
- c. Hours of operation may vary.

(4) THE COMPOST CENTER

(4) The Compost Center

The Compost Center, located at the W. R. Wheeler Service Center, processes compostable material into finished compost and wood mulch.

- a. Compostable material is subject to a processing fee set by City Council through resolution. Material acceptable at the Compost Center includes

untreated wooden pallets and untreated wood up to 8 feet long by 6 inches thick.

~~(5) THE TRANSFER STATION~~

(5) The Transfer Station

The Transfer Station, located at the W. R. Wheeler Service Center, accepts and processes refuse as determined by the operator.

- a. Customers of the Transfer Station must pre-arrange through the City's contracted operator to deliver refuse. Customers must call the contracted operator for more information.
- b. Fees for the use of the Transfer Station are pre-arranged by the operator.
- c. Hours of operation may vary.

~~R2:9 Variances6 Exemptions~~

(1) Special Set-out for Curbside Collection Service

Special set-out service is provided by the City or its authorized contractor to customers who are physically unable to place their ~~Curbearts~~Curb Carts curbside, have no other persons in their household capable of placing the ~~Curbearts~~Curb Carts curbside, and are unable to make other arrangements for the ~~Curbearts~~Curb Carts. This type of collection will be known as a "Special Set-out" and is limited to ~~Curbearts~~Curb Carts only. Yard waste bags and Bundles are not included and must be placed at the curb for collection by the Customer.

Special Set-out service is subject to approval by the City following an on-site interview and must be renewed every two years. To arrange an interview, call City Customer Service.

Special Set-out is available to Residential Customers living in single or two-family dwelling units.

The ~~Curbearts~~Curb Carts must be placed within view from the street and no more than 50 feet from the curb prior to 7 a.m. on collection day.

R2:157 Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy

- (1) The City supports the State of Michigan's recommended waste management hierarchy for handling solid waste. The State's ~~hierarch~~hierarchy provides the following ranking in order of most preferred to least preferred for: (1) waste prevention; (2) reuse and repair; (3) recycling and composting; (4) refuse-derived fuel; and (5) landfilling.
- (2) To strengthen the markets for products made with recycled material content, the City may specify recycled-content goods within the purchasing guidelines set by City Council. The City will also promote the use of recycled content products to the community.

~~Revisions to the City of Ann Arbor Solid Waste Regulations Effective as of June 28, 2025.~~

(2) Reviewed by the Attorney's Office: Printed on recycled paper.

Revisions to the City of Ann Arbor Solid Waste Regulations Effective as of January 15, 2026.
Reviewed by the Attorney's Office: December 15, 2025
Printed on recycled paper.