



# Howard County Curbside Collections GUIDE

### Be In The Know:

- Sign up for our email blasts and monthly newsletter
- Request tours of the Alpha Ridge Landfill and the Waste Management Recycling Facility
- Request presentations for your school or civic group
- Request a waste audit of your business
- Attend composting and rain barrel workshops hosted by the County's Master Gardeners

**Bureau of Environmental Services**  
 9801 Broken Land Parkway  
 Columbia, MD 21046  
 (410) 313-6444  
 Help@HowardCountyRecycles.org

Weekly collection of recycling and trash is provided to households that pay the yearly Trash and Recycling Service fee.

Visit [KnowBeforeYouThrow.org](http://KnowBeforeYouThrow.org) to check your collection days and more information

**KNOW** before  
 you **THROW**  
 HOWARD COUNTY, MD



Howard County provides residents with ONE FREE recycling container. Containers are assigned to each address and must remain at the house, even if the resident moves. You can put your street name and number on the container which will help it stay where it belongs. Contact the County for any repairs.

### GENERAL RULES

Keep it **loose**,  
 lose the **bag**.



Place recyclables  
**loosely together**.

No need to  
 remove lids,  
 caps or labels  
 from items.



Make sure  
 containers are  
**CLEAN, EMPTY, and DRY.**

Recycling markets and products change. While we may wish that everything can be recycled, it's important to **Know Before You Throw**. When in doubt, leave it out (of the blue bin). Stay up to date by visiting our website.

### YES we will collect:

- ✓ Paper – newspaper, office paper, junk mail, milk cartons
- ✓ Plastic – bottles, jars, tubs, trays
- ✓ Metal cans – aluminum, steel cans and EMPTY aerosol cans.
- ✓ Glass – any color bottles or jars
- ✓ Cardboard – clean and flattened

### NO we can't collect:\*

- ✗ Acrylic plastic
- ✗ Disposable plates and utensils (paper or plastic)
- ✗ Food stained cardboard or paper
- ✗ Napkins, paper towels, tissues
- ✗ Plastic bags or plastic bagged material
- ✗ Plastic clamshell containers and packaging
- ✗ Plastic film, wrap, bubble wrap, or air bags\*
- ✗ Styrofoam\*
- ✗ "Tanglers" – hangers, wires, hoses, cords
- ✗ Textiles or clothing\*
- ✗ Window glass, ceramics, mirrors

\*Visit our website for alternative recycling options.





## TRASH COLLECTION

Before disposal explore our reuse, recycle, and donation options first at [KnowBeforeYouThrow.org](http://KnowBeforeYouThrow.org).

Up to four (4) cans, bags or bundles will be collected weekly on your trash day. Each item must weigh less than 40 pounds. Bundles must be less than 4' in length and 18" in diameter.

### Collection Rules

- Reusable containers must be made of metal or tough plastic, equipped with handles and watertight, well-fitting lids. County-provided recycling container cannot be used.
- If the container is larger than 40 gallons, each bag inside is counted as one item.
- Disposable trash bags must be heavy gauge plastic that can be picked up and carried without tearing. Securely tie the top to prevent spillage.
- The clean-up of trash or recycling, especially in grouping areas, that is spilled and/or spread by animals or wind is the responsibility of the residents.

### NO we can't collect:

- ✗ Car parts: tires, wheels, batteries, etc.
- ✗ Construction debris: concrete, drywall, lumber, carpet, fencing, cabinets, appliances, etc.
- ✗ Containers larger than 40-gallon containing loose trash will not be serviced
- ✗ Electronics including lap tops, computer monitors, TVs, motorized toys, chairs with electric plugs, etc.
- ✗ Hazardous, toxic or flammable materials: asbestos, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas tanks, dead animals, firearms, medical waste, etc.
- ✗ Landscape debris: dirt, rocks, stumps, sod, etc.
- ✗ Liquids such as paint, cooking oil, chemicals and motor oil. Other liquids are prohibited.
- ✗ Mirrors/plate glass
- ✗ Paint cans (unless completely empty or dried with the lid off)
- ✗ Rechargeable batteries



## YARD TRIM COLLECTION

Curbside yard trim collection is provided to most homes in Howard County and runs from April 1 through mid-January. Unlimited quantities of grass, leaves and light brush will be accepted on your recycling day. Not sure if you receive collection? Call 410-313-6444 or visit our website.

### Collection Rules

- Use reusable open-top containers or paper bags.
- Tie brush and branches using string or twine. Bundles may not exceed 18" in diameter, 4' in length.
- Yard trim will not be collected as trash during yard trim collection season in areas that receive curbside yard trim collections.
- Cans, containers, paper bags and bundles must weigh less than 40 pounds.
- Yard trim in plastic bags will not be collected.

### YES we will collect:

- ✓ Bamboo
- ✓ Brush/weeds
- ✓ Grass
- ✓ Hedge clippings/light brush
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Seed pods (pine cones, sour gum balls, etc.)
- ✓ Small limbs or branches less than 4" in diameter and 4' in length

### NO we can't collect:

- ✗ Bushes with root bases attached
- ✗ Logs over 4" in diameter or 4' in length
- ✗ Stumps
- ✗ Yard trim mixed with trash or other materials
- ✗ Yard trim placed in plastic bags, recycling carts or wheelbarrows

### Did you know?

- Yard trim is accepted year-round at the Alpha Ridge Landfill, where it is composted and mulched on site.
- You can visit our website to learn more about Rake & Take, Grasscycling, Composting, and the Merry Mulch programs.



## BULK ITEMS AND SCRAP METAL

Pickup of bulk trash and scrap metal must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444. A maximum of four (4) bulk items will be collected. Items must be able to be lifted by two collection crew members (oversized and unaccepted items will be tagged and left for the resident's disposal). Bulk trash is not recycled.

### YES we will collect:

- ✓ Appliances
- ✓ Dressers
- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Lawn mowers
- ✓ Mattresses and box springs
- ✓ Tables

### NO we can't collect:

- ✗ Batteries\*
- ✗ Carpets/rugs
- ✗ Chairs with electric plugs
- ✗ Compressed gas tanks\*
- ✗ Construction & demolition debris
- ✗ Drum containers/fuel & oil tanks
- ✗ Electronics/TVs
- ✗ Medical waste
- ✗ Mirrors/plate glass
- ✗ Motorized toys
- ✗ Pallets\*
- ✗ Sofa beds
- ✗ Stumps & logs\*
- ✗ Tires\*
- ✗ Wooden picnic tables and swing sets

\*These items can be recycled at the Alpha Ridge Landfill at 2350 Marriottsville Road in Marriottsville.

## GENERAL COLLECTION TIPS

- Items are collected between the hours of 6 am and 7 pm. Pickup time may vary week to week. Items must be placed out before 6 am on the day of collection.
- Contractors will not return to collect items set out after the truck has serviced the area.
- Place carts and items within 5 feet of the nearest public road. Some communities are required to group items in designated areas.
- Do not block mailboxes, cars or fire hydrants.
- Incorrect items and improperly set out material will not be collected.
- Residents putting out items for donation (Purple Heart, Freecycle, etc.) should be sure to clearly mark those items and keep them close to the house to avoid accidental collection.

### Holiday Slide Schedule

Recycling, yard trim and trash collections occurring on or after these holidays will slide and be made one day later that week. For a printable schedule, visit.

No collections will be made on:



NEW YEAR'S DAY



MEMORIAL DAY



INDEPENDENCE DAY



LABOR DAY



THANKSGIVING DAY



CHRISTMAS DAY

### Inclement Weather

Every effort will be made to continue to provide scheduled collections as weather and road conditions permit. Residents are reminded that collection containers must be free of snow and ice. Changes will be announced on the website and social media.

Have questions? Email [Help@HowardCountyRecycles.org](mailto:Help@HowardCountyRecycles.org), visit [HowardCountyRecycles.org](http://HowardCountyRecycles.org) or call 410-313-6444.