

There have been several inquiries into yard waste pick up issues. Some confusion exists regarding the practice of the City picking up yard waste, what will the City pick up as a part of the “one hopper full” and what the City does in certain circumstances where the amount of yard waste is excessive or not properly prepared. In order to help clarify the situation the following are presented as examples of what the City will do in certain circumstances



This photograph shows a pile of yard waste with a few 32 gallon type garbage cans with yard waste inside. The City in this situation would pick up the yard waste in the cans as it meets the size requirement for pieces. The pile on the drive way would not be picked up because the material does not meet the maximum length requirement of 3 feet. If the branches were that size, and were not larger than 5 inches in diameter, the city would pick up at no cost a hopper full of yard waste.

Any yard waste in excess of a hopper full would be left with a tag placed on the door that the City would return to pick up the additional hopper full, that day, for an additional charge of \$5 for each hopper full and \$10 for the return trip.



This photograph shows a pile of properly prepared yard waste with the individual pieces being no longer than 3 feet in length or no greater than 5 inches in diameter. The bags and the garbage can on the left would be counted in the hopper full of yard waste. In this circumstance, the total amount of yard waste exceeded one hopper full. The individual at this location prearranged for pickup of additional yard waste and was only charged the \$5 for the additional hopper full and avoided the

return trip charge of \$10.



This photograph shows the property owner’s yard waste cut to the correct length and placed in a combination of yard trash bags and trash cans. A hopper full is defined as a pile of yard waste 6 foot long by 3 foot high by 4 foot wide or 14 - 32 gallon trash cans or 14 yard waste bags or any combination up to 14 total. If you think your pile or collection of yard waste pickup will be greater than one hopper full, call and prearrange for an additional pickup. In the worst case you will be

charged \$5 per hopper full in addition to the first hopper full. If you over estimated and you only actually have one hopper full there will be no additional charge. Remember that prearranging for excess yard waste pickup will save you the \$10 return trip charge.

Saving return trips saves the city on wear and tear on our trucks as well as helping reduce our fuel usage.



Properly prepared 32 gallon cans with yard waste.



Properly prepared lawn bags with yard waste.

Some other helpful thoughts regarding yard waste

- ❖ Do not comingle yard waste with other waste such as garbage, lumber, building materials or other non yard waste items. The City will not pick up the yard waste and will leave a door hanger explaining that the resident must remove the non yard waste materials.
- ❖ If you do not want to incur an additional charge for yard waste pickup, stage your trimming of trees and foliage such that you are capable of placing at the curb one hopper full of material per pick up day. Remember, that on each of your pick up days, you are entitled to have one hopper full picked up free of charge.

Regarding non yard waste items

In the following examples these items would be picked up only if there is a prearrangement made with the City. In the photograph on the right, the automated garbage can would be emptied by the automated collection truck and the other materials would be picked up by a second truck only if prearrangement had been made with the City.



With Regard to automated collection containers

Remember to place your automated can so that the lid is facing in the popper direction next to the curb. Our automated truck drivers will not get out of the truck to turn the can around or move it. If we can not get next to the can with our automated collection truck, we cannot empty the can. Please be sure that you or your neighbor does not block access to the can with a vehicle or boat trailer.



Some other things regarding automated pickup cans

- ❖ Do not place materials on top of the automated can lid as the City will not pick up the automated can. Items on the lid will slide off into the street. When this occurs. A door hanger, notice will be provided to the resident explaining the situation.
- ❖ Remember that the automated cans dump into the top of our automated trucks. Please ensure that materials placed inside will not become air born during the dumping process. We are not equipped to cleanup after the automated truck in these circumstances. If you have materials of this type place them in a bag within the container. Your neighbors will appreciate your thoughtfulness as they will not have to pick this debris up from their yards. Debris also can find its way into the storm water system causing backups as well as contributes to the pollution of the surrounding waterways.
- ❖ Automated cans may be filled beyond the top of the can as long as the materials are well secured in the can such that the material within will successfully make it into the collection truck during pickup. See the bullet point above.