Solid waste and recycling
A guide to the city’s solid waste services

St. Louis Park
MINNESOTA
This guide is intended for St. Louis Park residents who receive city solid waste collection services for recycling, organics, yard waste and garbage.

Inside you will find information to help you understand how to use these services, as well as other resources that can help your household reduce, reuse and recycle!
Who to call

**Residential solid waste collection**
Waste Management
763.783.5423
stlouispark@wm.com
- Report a missed pickup or other problem with garbage, recycling, organics or yard waste
- Request bulky garbage, appliance or electronics pickup
- Request walkup service (not available for yard waste) or an extra pickup

**Clothing and home goods collection**
Simple Recycling
866.835.5068
info@simplerecycling.com
- Report a missed pickup of clothing and home goods
- Request additional orange collection bags

**City of St. Louis Park**
Public Works
952.924.2562
recycling@stlouispark.org
www.stlouispark.org/garbage-recycling
- General program information
- Questions on what’s accepted

**Utility Billing**
952.924.2111
utilitybilling@stlouispark.org
- Change cart size
- Request another recycling cart
- Add organics service
- Utility bill questions
- Report a missing or damaged cart
- Apply for garbage hold
- Request every-other-week garbage service
Collection day information

Setting material out for collection
Place all materials out by 7 a.m. Carts cannot be placed in streets, in alleys or on sidewalks because they block the way of vehicles and pedestrians, and hinder snow removal.

- For curbside collection, place on your driveway or on the boulevard between the street and sidewalk.
- For alley collection, place on your property, driveway or beside your garage next to the alley.

During winter months you must keep your cart collection area clear of snow. Carts cannot be placed on top of snow banks, as haulers cannot safely access them.

Missed pickup
Report a missed pickup of garbage, recycling, organics or yard waste by contacting Waste Management. The hauler is required to return to collect a missed pickup by the next business day.

Be sure to report the missed pickup within two calendar days of your collection day by email or phone (leave a message after hours or on a weekend). If a missed pickup is reported after that, it will be picked up on your next collection day unless you pay for an extra collection.

How to find your collection day and recycling week
Visit www.stlouispark.org/recycling to view a collection day map and recycling calendar or contact Waste Management. Collection frequency is as follows:

- Recycling: Every-other-week
- Organics: Weekly
- Yard waste: Weekly
- Garbage: Weekly; 20- and 30-gallon service levels may opt for collection every other week

Holidays
Six holidays delay collection if they fall on a weekday: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. On these days, there will be no collection. Collection for the remaining days that week are delayed by one day.
Extra collection options
All garbage, recycling and organics must fit inside your cart with the lid closed for collection. Consider these options for extra material:

- Extra recyclables can be placed in containers next to your cart; extra carts are also available. See the recycling section on page 9 for more information.
- Extra bags of household garbage can be collected if marked with “Extra Garbage” stickers purchased from the city. Contact utility billing for more information.
- Extra collection of material before your next collection day can also be requested. Residents must contact and prepay Waste Management.

Home pickup of appliances, bulky wastes and electronics
The city’s hauler offers collection of items that must be recycled like appliances, TVs and computer monitors. Bulky wastes like carpeting, broken furniture, remodeling debris and mattresses are also collected. Residents must contact and prepay Waste Management for collection.

Walkup service
For residents who may need assistance setting out their carts, walkup service is offered for an extra fee. The hauler can collect your carted material at a different location on your property. Carts must be outside, not inside a building such as a garage. Sign up by calling Waste Management. Separate fees are charged for each service type (garbage, recycling and organics). Walkup service is not available for yard waste.
**Storing your carts after collection**

Carts should be put away as soon as practical after they are emptied on your collection day. If you must store your carts outside, please be considerate.

Carts stored outside must be:

- At least four feet (4’) from interior lot lines adjacent to a house, and
- Behind the building line adjacent to any street.

Carts and yard waste containers may also be stored in the alley right of way immediately next to your garage. The cart may not extend into the alley itself.

**Examples of allowed cart placement (green shaded area)**

- House 1: Mid-block house, alley collection
- House 3: Mid-block house, curb collection
- House 2: Corner house, alley collection
- House 4: Corner house, curb collection
Educational tags
Educational tags are left on carts to remind you of program guidelines. A tag may be left if you’ve put something in the wrong cart, overfilled your cart, placed large items outside your cart without requesting a bulk pickup or placed your cart in an unacceptable location. Problem materials will be left behind.

If you receive a tag and have questions about what should be corrected, contact Waste Management or public works.

Trim shrubs, branches in alley
Please trim shrubs and branches behind your property line in the alleyway to ensure crews can navigate alleys safely during collection.

Dumpsters
Dumpsters are not allowed on city property or right of way, including streets, alleys, boulevards and sidewalks. Dumpsters, including soft-sided dumpster bags, must be placed on private property, such as a driveway or yard.

Dumpsters are allowed for up to six months when used for a permitted building project. All others must be removed within 14 days. Call the inspections department at 952.924.2588 with questions.

House numbers on garages
The city requires that your house number be clearly visible on your garage if you have alley collection. This allows your home to be easily identified for service.
Changing cart size and reporting cart damage

To change your cart size or report cart damage, contact utility billing. The city will determine if damaged carts should be repaired or replaced.

Garbage and organics cart sizes may be changed once per year for free. Additional changes will result in a fee. Recycling carts may be changed or added at any time without a fee.

Beginning in 2019, every-other-week (EOW) garbage service will be an option available for 20- and 30-gallon service levels.

Rates and service levels

Solid waste rates include all city collection services. A base fee is paid by all households and covers the cost of recycling, organics and yard waste, as well as education and support provided by city staff. The remaining cost is determined by, and increases with, the garbage service level. This approach supports waste reduction by charging residents based on how much garbage they throw away.

Garbage service level (in gallons)

Garbage hold

If your home will be vacant for four or more consecutive weeks, you can request that all solid waste services be put on hold by contacting utility billing at utilitybilling@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2111.
**Food waste reduction**

While recycling and composting are important, waste prevention has the largest environmental benefit. Learning how to properly store food helps eliminate food waste, which reduces how much you throw out and saves money.

Visit [www.savethefood.com](http://www.savethefood.com) to learn more and find creative ways to use food before it goes to waste.

**Swaps**

The city hosts swap events to encourage and support reuse. These events are open to everyone, including non-residents, and have included swaps for clothing and gardening supplies. Watch the city calendar and publications for notifications of upcoming swaps.

**Fix-it clinics**

Hennepin County hosts free monthly fix-it clinics to help residents reduce the amount of materials they must dispose. Extending the life of usable items reduces environmental impacts and avoids waste. Visit [www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic](http://www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic) to learn how to participate.

**Choose to reuse**

Buying used and repairing items you already have are great ways to reduce waste and help protect the environment through everyday choices.

Visit [www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse](http://www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse) for a searchable directory of reuse and repair businesses, as well as tips on how to transition to a low-waste lifestyle.
Keep recyclables loose in cart
Please place recyclables directly into your cart. Leaving recyclables in bags causes problems in the sorting process. Recyclables tied in plastic bags are often discarded as workers do not have time to open bags, and loose plastic bags wrap around sorting equipment. Do not place plastic bags of any kind in recycling. Paper bags can trap items inside causing improper sorting. To avoid bags completely, consider using a reusable container to collect recyclables.

Numbers on plastics
Many people are aware of the numbers found on plastics. These numbers range from 1 – 7 and are found inside a triangle that looks like a recycling symbol. Unfortunately the number and symbol do not mean the plastic is recyclable, but instead indicate the type of plastic. Currently, rigid plastics (non-film) with numbers 1, 2, 4 and 5 can be recycled in the city’s program.

Extra recyclables
There is no charge for setting out extra recyclables on your collection day. Place extra recyclables outside the cart in a reusable container (such as an old recycling tote) or a cardboard box. Extra recyclables placed out in plastic bags will not be collected.

Cardboard boxes that do not fit in your cart must be flattened and folded or cut down to pieces three feet by three feet or smaller. Bundle cardboard with string or tape so it can be easily collected. Place next to your recycling cart.

Additional recycling cart
If you consistently have extra recycling, you may change your cart size or request an additional cart for no extra charge by visiting www.stlouispark.org/recycling or calling utility billing at 952.924.2111.
## Recycling guide

### Plastics
- **Keep caps on.**
  - Bottles and jugs
    - Water, soda and juice bottles
    - Milk and juice jugs
    - Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
    - Dishwashing and laundry soap bottles and jugs
    - Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles

### Glass
- **Food and beverage bottles and jars**
- **NO:** Drinking glasses, window glass, ceramics or mirrors

### Paper
- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines, newspaper and inserts
- Phone books
- Books (remove hard covers)

### Boxes
- Cardboard
- Cereal, cracker, shoe and gift boxes
- Refrigerated food boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes
- **NO:** Paper plates, paper towels, napkins, receipts, freezer boxes, ice cream tubs or coffee cups

### Cups and containers
- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other tubs and lids
- Produce, deli and takeout containers
- **NO:** Plastic bags or film, bubble wrap, Styrofoam™ or containers that held hazardous substances such as motor oil

### Metal
- Food and beverage cans
- Aluminum foil and trays
- Decorative tins and pie tins
- **NO:** Paint cans, propane cylinders, helium tanks, fire extinguishers, containers that held hazardous substances, holiday lights or electrical cords, needles, syringes or auto injectors (e.g. epinephrine pens)

### Cartons
- **Do not flatten.**
- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons
- **NO:** Paper or Styrofoam™ egg cartons or ice cream tubs

### Other items not accepted:
- Batteries, diapers, electronics, garden hoses or toys

Only include clean recyclables. Visit [www.stlouispark.org/recycling](http://www.stlouispark.org/recycling) for more information.
Bulky rigid plastics

Collected in your cart: All items must fit inside the recycling cart; do not cut into small pieces. Bulky rigid plastics with numbers 1, 2, 4 and 5 are accepted. Examples include:

- Plastic buckets five gallons and smaller (clean, no paint/spackle, metal handle okay)
- Plastic tubs and laundry baskets
- Plastic garden pots (less than eight inches in diameter, free of dirt, no multipacks)

Textiles

Collected in a separate bag (at curb): Simple Recycling provides collection of unwanted clothing, shoes and small home goods on your regular recycling collection day. Accepted items must be placed in orange Simple Recycling bags, available at several city buildings. Set bags out at the front curb (even for households with alley collection). This service is free and completely voluntary. Visit www.stlouispark.org/simple-recycling for more information.

Scrap metal

Collected outside of cart: The city’s hauler collects scrap metal up to a certain size for free on your recycling day. Acceptable items include pots and pans, pipes (no longer than two feet) and shelving (no larger than two feet by two feet).

Do not place these items in your recycling cart. Place in a container (e.g. old recycling bin or cardboard box) next to your recycling cart. No car parts or metal with ragged and sharp edges. Larger pieces of metal should be brought to city cleanup days or to a scrap metal recycler.

Paper shredding

Deliver to events or drop-offs: Residents are requested to discontinue placing shredded paper in recycling carts due to the problems caused at sorting facilities. Even when placed in paper bags, shredded paper usually ends up as a contaminant in glass.

If you need to shred, limit shredding to truly confidential items (medical, financial, tax documents, etc.), and place in the trash. If possible, bring unshredded paper to city or private business sponsored shred events where it will be shredded and recycled. Several office supply and shipping businesses also offer shredding services.
How to sign up
There’s no additional cost to participate in organics service. It is already included in your solid waste fee, along with your garbage, recycling and yard waste service. To sign up, visit www.stlouispark.org/organics or call utility billing at 952.924.2111.

How organics works
1. Collect your food scraps, coffee grounds, napkins and tissues in compostable bags, provided by the city. You can pick up compostable bags from City Hall or the Municipal Service Center. 
2. Place bagged organics in your brown-lidded organics cart. Pizza delivery boxes and paper egg cartons do not need to be bagged. 
3. Place your organics cart at the alley or curb by 7 a.m. for weekly pickup on your collection day.

Compostable bags
Organics must be bagged in compostable bags. Compostable plastic bags must have the BPI-certified compostable logo. Brown paper grocery bags may also be used for dry organics, like tissues and paper towels. Participating households are eligible to pick up a supply of bags each year at the following locations:

City Hall – First Floor
5005 Minnetonka Blvd.
Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Municipal Service Center
7305 Oxford St.
Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Program changes
Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, organics and yard waste will be collected separately. Yard waste will no longer be allowed in organics carts. Residents with organics collection will need to set yard waste out in separate compostable bags or personal reusable containers. Organics carts that contain yard waste will not be emptied and an educational tag will be left on the cart.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/garbage-recycling for more information on upcoming program changes.
Organics guide

All food
• Fruits and vegetables
• Meat, fish and bones
• Dairy products
• Eggs and egg shells
• Pasta, beans and rice
• Bread and cereal
• Nuts and shells

NO: Grease, oil or gum

Food-soiled paper
• Pizza boxes from delivery
• Napkins and paper towels
• Paper egg cartons

NO: Frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, fast food wrappers, ice cream tubs or towels used with cleaning chemicals

Certified compostable products
• Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers labeled with the BPI logo or “certified compostable”

NO: Items only labeled as biodegradable, oxo-degradable, earth friendly, made from plant starch, plant-based, green, etc.

Other compostable items
• Coffee grounds and filters
• Tea bags
• Wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks
• Hair and nail clippings
• Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
• Houseplants and flowers

NO: Yard waste, diapers, sanitary products, animal and pet waste, litter or bedding, cleaning or baby wipes, Styrofoam™, dryer lint or dryer sheets, recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic)

Visit www.stlouispark.org/organics for a detailed list of materials accepted and more information about organics.

Avoiding contamination is especially important in organics. If you are unsure if an item is compostable, contact city staff at recycling@stlouispark.org or place it in the garbage.
Organics tips

Don’t overfill bags
The heavier the bag, the more likely it will tear. Letting organics sit in the bag for longer will weaken the bag, so make sure to take it out at least once per week and follow the tips below for reducing liquids. Also, take your organics out when the bag is about two thirds full, as it’s easier to tie.

Lose the liquids and keep it cool
When collecting organics in your kitchen, remove excess liquids before placing them in the bag. Liquids sitting in a compostable bag will weaken the bag. Also, allow warm foods, coffee grounds and tea bags to cool before placing them in the bag.

Use a vented container to help control odors
Air flow helps reduce odors. Purchase a kitchen pail with a vented lid or make your own by reusing an empty plastic or metal container (ice cream pails or coffee containers work well) and cutting slits in the lid.

Set out cart for collection every week
The longer organics stay in the cart, the more materials will break down and produce stronger odors. Leaving organics in the cart longer also may attract pests.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/organics for additional home setup tips.
Yard waste guidelines

Yard waste guidelines

Yard waste is generally collected from April through November. If there is a significant snowfall before the end of November, yard waste collection will end at that time. Yard waste collection is included in your solid waste rate.

Yard waste includes all garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, wood chips, twigs and branches. Set yard waste out for collection in one of these ways:

1. Use a reusable container. The container must be sturdy and have handles so it can be carried by one person. Material can be left unbagged in the container.
2. Use certified compostable bags, brown paper lawn bags or brown paper grocery bags.
3. Tie branches into bundles or put in one of the container options listed above. Branches must be less than four inches in diameter and less than four feet long.

Note: Starting Jan. 1, 2019, yard waste will no longer be allowed in organics carts.

Each container, bag or bundle should weigh no more than 40 pounds. Dirt and sod are not accepted. It is illegal to put yard waste in your garbage.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/yard-waste for more information.

Christmas trees

Christmas trees can be set out for collection on your regular collection day by 7 a.m. during the first three weeks of January. The city’s hauler collects real (cut) Christmas trees for no charge during this time. Trees set out after the free collection will be charged for a bulk pickup.

Remove all decorations, wires, stands, lights, tinsel, etc. Bagged trees will not be collected. Make sure your tree is not stuck in ice or snow on your collection day.
**Brush site**

The city’s brush site is a convenient way for you to dispose of branches and logs that are too large for curbside pickup.

**Location:** 2501 Edgewood Ave. S., St. Louis Park. Entrance located at the intersection of Cedar Lake Road and Colorado Avenue South on the southeast side of the railroad tracks.

**Hours:**
- Tuesdays: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Saturdays: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sundays: Noon – 4 p.m.

The brush site is generally open late April through late October.

**Accepted:** Woody debris, branches, logs

**Not accepted:** Lumber, construction debris, dirt, rocks, grass, leaves

**Fees:** Free of charge

**Requirements:** Proof of residency required. Identification can include MN ID with St. Louis Park address or MN ID plus a utility bill with St. Louis Park address.

Visit [www.stlouispark.org/brush-drop-off](http://www.stlouispark.org/brush-drop-off) for more information.

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**Compost and mulch**

The city provides free mulch for residents at the brush site. Compost is provided with proof of residency; limits apply. Visit [www.stlouispark.org](http://www.stlouispark.org) for details on availability.
Backyard composting

Composting is a great way to manage yard waste and some food scraps at home.

Residents may compost leaves, grass, fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds and paper coffee filters.

Do not place meat, bones, dairy products, eggs or pet waste in backyard bins. These items can attract pests and create foul odors.

The city has a few basic rules for backyard composting to help prevent potential issues:

• Compost bins must be made of durable material such as wood, wire mesh, plastic or concrete block.
• Bins must be enclosed on all sides and have a lid.
• Bins should be no greater than 150 cubic feet in volume.
• Bins must be in the backyard, at least 15 feet from any house and at least five feet from any trail, street, alley or property line adjacent to a city park.

Visit [www.stlouispark.org/backyard-composting](http://www.stlouispark.org/backyard-composting) for more information.
The city holds two cleanup day events each year, one in June and one in September. These annual events offer collection for disposal, recycling or reuse for the following items:

- Large bulky waste
- Remodeling debris
- Scrap metal
- Mattresses and box springs
- Electronics
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Household batteries
- Bicycles
- Textiles and household goods
- Tires
- Electrical cords and holiday lights
- Confidential papers (shredded on-site)

Visit [www.stlouispark.org/cleanup](http://www.stlouispark.org/cleanup) for more information. A reminder will be sent by mail before each event.

Severe weather could affect this event. If ended early or canceled, every effort will be made to provide alternatives.

Many of the items collected at the cleanup day event can also be taken to Hennepin County drop-off facilities or area businesses. Visit [www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide](http://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide) for options.
Hazardous waste and drop-off recycling

Hennepin County drop-off facilities accept a number of items including household hazardous waste.

**Automotive fluids**
- Antifreeze
- Brake, power steering and transmission fluid
- Gas and fuels
- Lubricants and degreasers
- Motor oil and oil filters

**Household, lawn and garden products**
- Cleaners
- Mercury-containing items, including fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers and thermostats
- Paints, stains, thinners and varnish
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Propane and gas cylinders – one-pound or smaller, non-refillable containers only
- Solvents

**Appliances***
- Microwaves, stoves, refrigerators, freezers
- Water heaters
- Dehumidifiers
- Air conditioners

**Batteries**
Place clear tape over terminals.
No lead acid batteries.

**Cords and lights**
- Electrical cords
- String and holiday lights

**Electronics**
- TVs, computer monitors, laptops*
- Computer peripherals (CPUs, mice, printers, etc.)
- Mobile and cordless phones
- Rechargeable tools, toothbrushes, toys

**Electronic media**
- DVDs, CDs and Blu-ray discs
- Flash drives
- Media storage cards
- Video game cartridges

**Mattresses and box springs***
All sizes – including futon and crib mattresses

**Plastic bags**
Clean and dry. Place bags into open plastic bag.

**Tires***
Less than four feet in diameter.

*accepted for a fee
What to bring:
• Proof of residency, such as a driver’s license or utility bill
• Payment, if applicable – cash, check or credit card

For the most current facility information, visit www.hennepin.us/dropoffs or call 612.348.3777.

Additional disposal options
• Household Hazardous Waste collection events: Held in various locations across the county from spring to fall. Visit www.hennepin.us/collectionevents to find the schedule and list of materials accepted.
• Medicine disposal: Medicine drop boxes are available throughout Hennepin County. Visit www.hennepin.us/medicine to find locations.
• Battery collection containers: Containers to recycle batteries are available at some libraries, city halls and community centers. Visit www.hennepin.us/batteryrecycling to find locations.

Have something that you aren’t sure how to get rid of? Try searching the Green Disposal Guide at www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide for information on recycling and disposal of a variety of items.

Safe storage
Store products in original containers, making sure all lids and caps are tightly closed. Never mix chemicals together. Keep them out of reach of children and animals.
More resources

**In-home labels**
Help everyone in your household know what goes in recycling, organics and trash by labeling your containers. Pick up free labels from City Hall or the Municipal Service Center.

Visit [www.stlouispark.org/garbage-recycling](http://www.stlouispark.org/garbage-recycling) to order online.

**Recycling Champions**
The Recycling Champions program was launched in 2017 to engage residents who are interested in learning more about recycling. Through the program, residents serve as ambassadors in the community and share what they learn with family, friends and neighbors.

Visit [www.stlouispark.org/recycling-champions](http://www.stlouispark.org/recycling-champions) or email recycling@stlouispark.org to learn more about becoming a Recycling Champion.

**Hennepin County Master Recycler/Composters**
Hennepin County’s Master Recycler/Composter (MRC) program is a great way to learn more in-depth information about waste prevention, recycling and composting. Through a six-week course, residents gain knowledge to become a better advocate for waste reduction and recycling.

Visit [www.hennepin.us/masterrecyclers](http://www.hennepin.us/masterrecyclers) to learn more.
City of St. Louis Park Public Works

952.924.2562
recycling@stlouispark.org
www.stlouispark.org/garbage-recycling

This guide was printed Sept. 2018.
Please recycle any previous guides.

Disclaimer: This information is subject to change as city contracts or practices change.
The most current information will always be available on the city’s website at www.stlouispark.org.