

CITY OF ROCKFORD

Garbage & Refuse Collection

Everything You Need to Know about Rockford Sanitation

This Informational brochure is provided to explain the City of Rockford's Ordinance regulating garbage and rubbish. This is also an effort to improve the environment and health of our City.

Community & Economic Development
Neighborhood Standards
779-348-7160
815-967-6933 (fax)
www.rockfordil.gov



Garbage Can be a Serious Nuisance

- Poor sanitation is a general health hazard that can attract flies, mosquitoes, raccoons, rats, and other creatures that in turn can lead to the spread of disease.
 - Garbage contains materials that can seep into and pollute our groundwater and surface waters.
 - Poor sanitation is not pleasant for neighbors and takes away from the beauty of our city.
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Some property owners either store items outside or plan to eventually dispose of them. Unfortunately, accumulated garbage/rubbish affects neighbor relations and poses a threat to the public.

- Place your garbage and bulk items out for weekly collection no earlier than 3 p.m. the day before collection and not later than 6 a.m. on the day of collection. Containers shall be returned to their storage area by 8 a.m. of the day following collection. Bulk items should also be stored in an inconspicuous area and not at the curb until the collection day. An excessive waste fee may be imposed for large amounts of garbage and bulk waste exceeding 1 truck hopper.
- Refuse containers and garbage bags should be stored in a garage, shed or other inconspicuous location, generally out of sight from the street, until they can be properly placed at the curb for pickup.
- Rock River Disposal **will not** pick up tires, used motor oil, paint, liquids, construction debris, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, televisions/monitors, and large electronics.
- Please hire a private contractor to haul off large amounts of garbage and bulk items.

Other Disposal Options

Following are some alternatives for special types of unwanted materials:

Televisions/Computers/Electronics*

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Rockford Recycling Center

- Maximum 2 televisions or monitors per vehicle may be dropped off each working day
- 4665 Hydraulic Road, Rockford, IL 61109
- Open Tuesdays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. – noon
- Please visit www.KNIB.org to call 815-637-1343 for details

**Electronic devices smaller than 2 feet by 2 feet may be placed in residents blue 35 gallon recycling bin for collection*

Car Batteries

- AutoZone (Receive a \$5 merchandise card)
- O'Reilly and Advanced Auto Parts Stores
- Interstate Battery Company

Tires*

- Shamrock Recycling – 815-968-1592
- B & H Auto Parts – 815-226-1616
- Erickson's Auto Parts – 815-389-1611
- Star Tire Recycling – 815-961-8615

** Please call for appropriate rates and fees*

Miscellaneous Household Recyclables

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful - 815-637-1343

- See www.KNIB.org for operating hours and a full list of programs and recycling options, including special events for metals, pharmaceuticals, clothing, Christmas trees, and several other common household items
- Rockford Recycling Center - 4665 Hydraulic Road, Rockford, IL
- Roscoe Recycling Center – 13125 N. 2nd Street, Roscoe, IL

Other Disposal Options

Bulk Loads/Landfill Drop-offs

Winnebago Landfill Company – www.winnebagolandfill.com

- 8403 Lindenwood Road
- Please call first for hours and disposal rates (815-874-4806)
- Electronics and yard waste will not be accepted

Yard/LandscapingWaste

Rock River Valley Compost

- 6200 Baxter Road
- \$50.00 per ton with a 1 ton minimum
- Yard/landscape waste only accepted in approved landscape waste bags or bulk. No material larger than 6 to 8 inches in diameter and longer than 6 to 8 feet. No rocks, dirt, sod, fencing, manufactured wood products (colored mulch, railroad ties, landscaping timbers) accepted

Metal Recycling

Behr Iron & Metal

- 1100 Seminary Street (call first 815-987-2755)
- Some scrap metals/materials may be purchased from customers

Neblock, Inc

- 1001 S. Pierpont Avenue (call first 815-968-4477)

KNIB Rockford Recycle Center

- 4665 Hydraulic Road
- Will accept some metals, electronics at the Recycling Centers
- Call or check website for restrictions and dates for Metals and Electronics Recycling Drives (815-637-1343/www.KNIB.org)

Weekly Garbage/Refuse Pick up

Garbage pick-up occurs between Monday and Thursday, except major holidays. For holidays falling on collection days, garbage collection will be delayed by one day. All garbage must be contained in a garbage can, or a sealed bag. Garbage cans should not exceed 32 gallons in size and may not weigh more than 50 lbs when full. Loose materials will not be collected. All cans should be placed within 4 feet of your curb and should not be placed near any stationary objects such as mailboxes or trees.

Containers must be removed from the curb/alley and returned to an approved location by 8 am the day following pick up.

Garbage pickup does not occur on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



Weekly Compost/Yard Waste Pick up

Yard waste is all grass clippings, leaves and small branches from a residential property. Yard waste collection typically occurs from the beginning of April to the end of November and is collected on same day as regular garbage. All trimmings from bushes and small tree branches shall be placed in bundles no more than 4 feet in length, 2 feet in diameter, and not weighing more than 50 lbs. Sticks, twigs, brush, etc. must be bundled with string or twine and not plastic or metal wire. No plastic bags of any kind will be accepted for pick up and all refuse cans must be 32 gallons or less in capacity and clearly marked with an "X". There is a 50 lb weight limit for all biodegradable 2- ply bags and cans.



Compost/yard waste will not be accepted if garbage is intermixed, if placed in plastic bags, if bundled with wire, or if bundles are larger than the designated size. Degradable twine is best used for bundling branches. Citizens should not place or allow for loose leaves or grass clippings to accumulate in the public street or sidewalk area. Excessive yard waste cannot be handled by street sweepers and will clog the storm sewer system, allowing for flooding during precipitation events and during snow melt.

It is illegal to burn leaves. Leaves will be collected for composting on your normal collection day. The proper containers are biodegradable 2-ply paper bags or a standard 32 gallon garbage cans with a bold "X" on the side facing the street. Citizens shall not sweep loose leaves into the public street.



Hoarding Issues

Hoarding is the persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions, regardless of their actual value. The behavior usually has damaging effects emotionally, physically, socially, financially, and even legally for a hoarder and family members. It causes severe sanitation issues and hazards to life and safety. Hoarding can allow for confined sleeping areas and windows or other possible entrances/exits to become obstructed. Fire hazards are common and hoarding is a harbor for insects and vermin that can affect the entire neighboring properties.

Animal hoarding is the inability to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care. Animal hoarding causes unsanitary living conditions for both pets and their owners. Physical damage to the residence by animals is common, and animal hoarding creates a conducive setting for disease to both the animals and residents.

Residents with hoarding issues often have their utilities shut off. Appliances and facilities are often inoperable or inaccessible, such as stoves, refrigerators, sinks, toilets and/or showers. Unsanitary conditions expose residents and neighbors to illness and disease.

Because homes with hoarding issues are more likely to have emergency calls for service, first response teams such as police, fire, and EMTs are at a higher risk of injury due to the excessive amount of items that have accumulated.



Reasons for Hoarding

There are several reasons people tend to hoard, most of which stem from underlying physiological disorders:

- Keeping perceived “valuables”
- Items provide a false sense of security
- Fear of forgetting or losing items
- Physical limitations or frailty prevent removal of items.
- Animal hoarding attempts to replace human interaction

Often hoarders have similar living conditions:

- Loss of loved ones or little to no support from family
- Isolation or mistrust of others
- Minimal or no medical care
- Injuries and poor physical/physiological health

How You Can Help

Cleaning up a home with severe hoarding issues takes time, with slow and gradual steps for creating change. Obstacles that may be encountered include the inability to gain entrance to the home, the initial scale of inspection, a lengthy cleanup process and the disposal cost. If you have a friend or loved one that has a hoarding problem, there are several local counseling services available that can be reached out to for assistance.



BEFORE



AFTER

Weekly Recycling Pick up

Rockford residents are not required to recycle, however, the City encourages all residents to take advantage of the program. Each household is furnished with a blue 32-gallon recycling bin from Rock River Disposal that is to remain at the residence even if a move occurs. If you need a recycling bin call 815-965-2489. Aluminum and tin cans, glass jars and bottles, aerosol cans, coded plastics #1 - #7, and 6 and 12 pack rings will be accepted. All containers should be rinsed, caps removed, and placed loosely in a bin. If you have excess recyclables, they may be placed in a paper bag and set next to the bin.

Bulk Newspapers, paper, magazines, and phone books that are not able to fit in the bin should be placed in a paper bag and set next to it. Bulk cardboard and paperboard must be flattened and bundled with string or twine, not wire. The bundles should be no larger than 4' in length or a 3 foot by 3 foot cross-section and also placed next to the recycling bin. Recyclables will be collected on your regular garbage day.



Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Facility

Rockford residents can dispose of household hazardous waste at the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Center at 3333 Kishwaukee St. (Rock River Water Reclamation District), Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays.

Common Accepted Materials*

- Aerosols
- Corrosives
- Oxidizers
- Solvents
- Oil-based paints
- Waste/used oils
- Pesticides/Fertilizers
- Batteries
- Fluorescent lamps
- Up to 4 used tires
- Insulin disposal (no sharps)
- Over-the-counter medicine

Unaccepted Materials*

- Latex paint
- Radioactive waste
- Compressed gas cylinders/containers
- Explosives
- Bulk materials / 55 gallon drums
- Prescription pharmaceuticals

**List is an overview and not comprehensive.*

A more comprehensive list of acceptable and unacceptable materials can be viewed at the Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Website: <http://www.knib.org/recycling/green-guide/household-hazardous-waste-site/>

The facility is available to all residential parties within the State of Illinois. No waste generated from commercial or industrial sources will be accepted.

Property Maintenance Codes

The City of Rockford's Property Maintenance Code Section 302.1 regarding garbage and rubbish states: all exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition and free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage. Neighborhood standards may order the removal of debris in accordance with Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 65, Sections 5/11-20-13. When the accumulation of debris endangers the public health and safety or when there is actual or potential danger in the proximity of dwellings and/or the public right-of-way, the code official may cause removal of debris and the cost of such removal shall be charged against the real estate upon which the garbage and debris is located.

The City of Rockford's Ordinance 25-32 regarding setting refuse out for collection states: Refuse shall be placed out for collection no earlier than 3:00 p.m. of the day before the collection day and no later than 6:00 a.m. on the day of scheduled collection. Containers shall be returned to their original location by 8:00 a.m. of the day following collection.

You may file a complaint if you believe a property to be in violation of the codes by calling Neighborhood Standards at 779-348-7160, or online at www.rockfordil.gov.

City of Rockford
Community & Economic Development Department
Neighborhood Standards Division
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Rockford, IL 61104

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