



RESIDENTS' GUIDE TO
**TRASH, RECYCLING
& YARD WASTE**

Trash | Recycling | Yard Waste | Bulk Waste | Rollout Carts | Waste Alternatives

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Contact Us

New residents - utility billing

901-751-7605

waterapplications@Germantown-TN.gov

Information about collection services

901-757-7263

neighborhoodservices@Germantown-TN.gov

Report a missed service

901-757-7200

customerservice@Germantown-TN.gov

Change in service

901-757-7263

neighborhoodservices@Germantown-TN.gov

Order new, replacement, or optional carts

901-757-7200

customerservice@Germantown-TN.gov

Stay Informed

Sign up for the City of Germantown's free email subscription service at Germantown-TN.gov/enotices.

The information in this guide is provided to help ensure you receive the best service possible and to inform you about additional resources available on the City's website. If you choose not to keep this guide, please recycle it.

Welcome!



Your neighborhood services team knows that you take pride in your home and community. Our residents strive to maintain their homes and yards, keep their family healthy and contribute to the sustainability of our planet. We are here to help with reliable trash and recycling programs. We hope this guide will help you get the most out of this service.

When is my trash collected? How do I know what is acceptable to place in my recycling bin? Are there special bags for leaves? Where do I dispose of items that I can't place in my trash can? You will find the answers here and learn how you can help our team work efficiently to serve you and your neighbors.

Our goal is to deliver service excellence through cost-effective and timely service. For the most up-to-date information visit Germantown-TN.gov/trash or call us at (901) 757-7200.

Thank you for choosing Germantown!

Germantown Neighborhood Services

Overview of Services

The City of Germantown provides quality residential solid waste services, including

- Carts for trash and recycling
- Weekly curbside trash and recycling collection
- Limited construction debris and bulk waste pickup
- Limited yard waste pickup
- Amnesty dumpster and recycling days
- Information on hazardous household waste drop-off

Visit Germantown-TN.gov/trash for detailed information and updates on all services.



DEFINITION: Trash is common non-hazardous household waste that cannot be recycled or reused.

What's Accepted



Trash and Rubbish



Food Waste



Non-Recyclable Packaging



Light Bulbs
not compact fluorescents



Pet Waste
must be bagged



Dried Paint*

* To dispose of unwanted latex paint, mix in play sand, kitty litter or shredded paper to help absorb the paint. Place dry or empty can in the trash without lid.

What's NOT Accepted



Yard Waste



Tires*



Wooden Pallets*



Windows*

*Tires (off-rim, limit four) and construction debris (pallets, windows, etc.) are accepted at Semi-Annual Amnesty Dumpster and Recycling Day. See page 10 for details.

Household Hazardous Waste

*For more information about the Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste facility, see page 11.



Automobile Fluids



Fluorescent Light Bulbs



Rechargeable Batteries



Lighter Fluid/
Kerosene



Non-Latex Paints/
Lacquers/Polishes



Pesticides/Herbicides
must be in labeled container

Also: acids, ammonia, bleach, chemicals, fire extinguishers, fuel, fungicides, herbicides, mercury thermometers, mineral spirits, oil-based paint, paint thinners, pesticides, poisons, polishers, solvents.























How to Prepare Trash for Collection

Bag your trash before putting it into the cart.

- City ordinance requires that trash be bagged before it's placed in the cart. This prevents flyaway litter as the cart is emptied into the truck.
- Excess trash outside the cart is acceptable on a limited basis.
- Solid waste collection is for trash generated at the household. No debris from elsewhere should be placed at the curb.

RECYCLING

What's Accepted

Paper	Plastic	Glass
 Clean Corrugated Cardboard	 Drinking Bottles	 Jars
 Paperboard	 Cleaning Bottles	 Bottles
 Milk and Juice Cartons	 Containers with Caps	 Containers
 Paper Egg Cartons	 Jars with Lids	
 Office Paper and Mail	 Food Produce Containers	
 Newspaper	 Rigid Plastics	
 Magazines	 Buckets	
		Metal
		 Steel Cans
		 Aluminum Cans
		 Unsoiled Aluminum Foil



How to Prepare Recycling for Collection

Do not bag recyclables. Items should be placed loose in the cart.



- Empty and rinse containers if needed.
- Break down cardboard boxes to optimize space.
- All recyclable material should be placed in the cart.
- For extra cardboard boxes, there is a drop container located at 1920 S. Germantown Road (boxes must be flattened).

What's NOT Accepted



Plastic Bags,
Wrap, and Film



Foam



Drinking Glasses



Soiled Food
Containers



Ceramics



Straws



Light Bulbs
not compact fluorescents



Shredded Paper



Plant Trays



Hardcover Books*



Batteries



Tanglers, Cables
and Cords

*Consider donating books to the Friends of the Library Bookstore.

Also Please No:

Aerosol Cans
Clothes/Shoes
Diapers

Medical Supplies
Needles/Sharps
Plastic Cup Lids

Plastic Pouches
Plastic Silverware
Paper Towels

Shredded Paper
Tissues
Toys



When in doubt, throw it out. If you're not sure if it can be recycled, it's better to add it to the trash. For more information on recycling, visit Germantown-TN.gov/recycle.

What's Accepted Elsewhere *but not your recycling cart!*

Before putting non-accepted items in your trash cart, please consider disposing of these items at facilities that can recycle or reuse them.



Plastic Bags
take to grocery store



Computers
drop off at Shelby County Household
Hazardous Waste facility



Rechargeable Batteries
drop off at Shelby County
Household Hazardous Waste facility



Bottles with Hazardous Substances
drop off at Shelby County Household
Hazardous Waste facility - must be labeled



Used Cooking Oil
drop off at Public Works Complex
at 7700 Southern Avenue

***For more information about the Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste facility, see page 11.**

YARD WASTE

Yard Waste Collection Guidelines

Yard waste service is provided for **single-family residences** only. No yard waste is collected from vacant lots, unoccupied properties, commercial properties or condominiums.

Tree Contractors: Any tree debris pruned or cut by a contractor must be removed from the property by the contractor.

Weekly Limits on Yard Waste

- Maximum of 10 cubic yards combined of loose and bagged yard waste (Note: one cubic yard is roughly the size of a washing machine)
- Must include no more than 40 bags
- Loose limbs/branches must be less than six feet in length and 12 inches in diameter

Personal containers or carts are not acceptable for yard waste. Yard debris carts are available for a one-time fee, see page 9. Any amount over the 10 cubic yards is the responsibility of the resident to remove.

What's Accepted



Leaves*



Twigs*



Pinecones and Pine Straw*



Grass Clippings*



Garden Refuse*



Limbs/Branches up to 12" diameter, cut to 6' max

*Note: All of these items should be bagged or in the yard cart.



DEFINITION: Yard Waste is vegetative matter resulting from landscaping maintenance by homeowners only.

What's NOT Accepted



Rocks



Gravel



Bricks and Concrete



Fences and Building Materials see Construction Debris on page 11



Tree Stumps



Logs over 12" in diameter



Plants in Pots



Plastic Trays



Dirt



Trash and Recyclables



Animal Waste



How to Prepare Yard Waste for Collection

- Bag it in 45-gallon clear bags or 33-gallon kraft paper bags, or put it in a city-issued (optional) yard debris cart. Personal containers are not acceptable.
- Larger items can be placed in a pile behind the curb.
- Allow four feet of clearance from cars, mailboxes and trees.

Subdivisions with alleys: Put yard waste in front of your home on the main street for service.

Leaves

Excess leaves in fall and winter can block storm drains or make sidewalks slippery. Help keep our neighborhoods safe and our sidewalks clear.

- Bag leaves in clear bags or 33-gallon kraft-paper bags. Up to 40 bags per week will be collected.
- Alternatively, mulch leaves with your mower.
- To prevent flooding, never blow or rake leaves into the street.



Backyard Composting

Composting is a beneficial way to eliminate a large number of items that you might normally be throwing out as trash. Backyard composting is simple to do on your own and can help reduce waste and cut down on your overall trash output.

Did you know?

Compostable items make up more than 30% of what we throw away when they could be composted instead and naturally recycled.

Items like eggshells, coffee grounds, cardboard and yard trimmings are just a few of the acceptable ingredients which can be composted. By adding the right mixture of these and similar organic materials together with water, and mixing them regularly, they break down and become compost. This compost can be added to soil and acts as a natural fertilizer, helping plants grow by providing carbon, nitrogen and moisture that plants need.

If you are looking to start growing your own vegetables, plant a flower garden, boost your potted plants or want to become a bit more eco-friendly, composting is a great option. Not only can it help your own plants, but this method is the most environmentally sound way of recycling organic materials and sending less waste to landfills where they would normally release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

For a more in-depth guide and tips on backyard composting, visit: [epa.gov/recycle/composting-home](https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home).

For home compost collection, visit atlasorganics.net/residential-collection.

BULK WASTE



DEFINITION: Bulk waste is weighing in excess of 75 pounds. Collection limit is five cubic yards.

Bulk Waste Collection Guidelines

Subject to the availability of equipment and the provisions of the City of Germantown's bulk waste collection policy, the maximum quantity of bulk waste which will be collected is five cubic yards.

Collected on Regular Collection Day

- Place items behind the curb (*not in the street*) and do not block the sidewalk.
- Most bulk waste items wind up in area landfills. Before scheduling a pickup, consider one of the environmentally friendly alternatives on pages 10 and 11.

What's Accepted



Furniture



Lawn Mowers
drain oil and gas



Bookshelves



Appliances
stove, refrigerators*,
washer/dryer



Mattresses

*Refrigerant removed and doors off

What's NOT Accepted



Concrete*



Gasoline and Oil



Evictions



Liquid Paint



Batteries



Tires*



Construction material over one cubic yard*
pre-treated lumber, drywall, cabinets, fencing, carpet

*Concrete, Tires (off-rim, limit four), and construction material can be brought to Amnesty Dumpster and Recycling Day

Bulk Waste Pickup

Bulk waste is collected from the curb on regular collection day. You may call 901-757-7200 or email customerservice@Germantown-TN.gov to provide notice to the contractor if you choose. For additional questions, call 901-757-7200.

ROLLOUT CARTS



Place Carts Out by 7 A.M.

Please have carts at the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of service but no earlier than 6 p.m. on the day prior to service. Please bring carts back before the following day. When stored, carts should not be visible from the street. Collection-day map and holiday schedule are available at Germantown-TN.gov/trash.

Position Your Carts Correctly

- Point the handle to the house.
- Leave four feet of space between the carts so that the truck's arm can grip the cart.
- Keep carts at least four feet away from utility poles, fences, mailboxes, fire hydrants, trees, cars and basketball goals.
- Do not place carts or debris in the street.

Bag Your Trash, But Not Recyclables

- Bag all trash before disposing of it in your trash rollout cart. This prevents flyaway litter as the trash cart is emptied into the trash truck.
- Drop recyclables loosely into the recycling rollout cart — do NOT bag or bundle. This helps when the items are being sorted at the recycling facility.

Keep Your Carts Clean

Customers are responsible for keeping their carts clean. Select Trash Can Cleaning (selecttrashcancleaning.com) provides a cart cleaning service.

Additional Carts & Cart Repairs

- Each address is assigned one 96-gallon trash cart. Residents may request additional rollout carts or repairs by calling 901-757-7200. Charges apply for additional carts.
- Backdoor customers can select a City-issued 64-gallon backdoor cart at no charge. You can also provide your own, as long as carts are 45 gallons or less, and weigh less than 50 pounds when loaded. Secure all trash in plastic garbage bags and place inside the container. Material outside the container will not be collected at the backdoor.
- A 64-gallon recycling cart is provided on request. You may request a 96-gallon recycle cart if you regularly fill the 64. Contact customerservice@Germantown-TN.gov to arrange an exchange. Condominiums receive an 18 gallon bin.
- Residents can request an optional 96-gallon yard debris cart. There is a one-time fee for the usage of this cart.

When You Move, The Carts Stay

All carts are the property of the City of Germantown. If you move, please leave your carts at your home.

WASTE COLLECTION ALTERNATIVES



Help keep items out of the landfill. Before putting something in the trash or requesting a bulk waste pickup, consider one of these environmentally friendly alternatives.

Amnesty Dumpster & Recycling Day

Amnesty Dumpster & Recycling Day is a free event that takes place twice a year to help you get rid of unwanted items not picked up by regular waste collection. Events take place at Germantown Public Works Complex, 7700 Southern Avenue, and Johnson Road Park, 2970 Johnson Road, and are usually scheduled for the third Saturday in April and September.

Electronics and Shredding

On Amnesty Dumpster & Recycling Days, at the Johnson Road Park location only, you can shred and recycle up to two banker's boxes of personal documents, and recycle the following electronic equipment: cell phones and chargers, printers, computers, keyboards, monitors (limit one), wires, circuit boards, CPUs, scanners and televisions. Check the website for any changes to acceptable items.



Hazardous waste, paint, chemicals and medical waste are not accepted. See information on Household Hazardous Waste below.

 Please check Germantown-TN.gov for exact dates and detailed information.

Items accepted include building materials, fencing, wire, steel poles, up to four tires without rims, concrete, dirt, rocks, lawn mowers, bikes and grills. Scrap metal will be recycled.



Habitat for Humanity

Most Habitat ReStores offer pickup of furniture donations, as well as other large items including appliances, building materials and more. You must have two or more items for pickup.

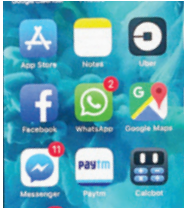
 MemphisHabitat.com



Goodwill

When you donate your stuff to Goodwill®, you create opportunities for individuals in our community looking to find a job and build skills, including veterans and military families, single mothers and many others. Your impact doesn't end there — the planet also benefits when you choose to ditch the dumpster and drop your items at Goodwill. Over the past few years alone, you've helped keep billions of pounds of clothing and household items out of landfills.

 Goodwill.org



Social Media

Your trash may be someone else's treasure. Consider posting your bulky item for free on Nextdoor or Facebook.



The Salvation Army

Donations made to The Salvation Army are resold at Thrift Stores throughout the country. The proceeds are then used to fund programs to support those struggling with drugs and alcohol at The Salvation Army's many Adult Rehabilitation Centers.

Construction Debris

Construction debris generated by the resident is limited to one cubic yard — about the size of a washing machine — per collection day. This includes wood, landscaping timbers, fencing, decking, cabinets, carpet, flooring, siding, etc.

For quantities larger than one cubic yard, contact Customer Service at 901-757-7200 to arrange for a cost estimate. Excess construction debris is also accepted at Amnesty Dumpster & Recycling Day.

Removal of contractor-generated construction debris is the responsibility of the contractor/homeowner.



Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste Facility

6305 Haley Road
Memphis, TN 38134
901-222-7729

Hours (excluding holiday weeks)
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays,
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste

Improper disposal of hazardous items, such as pouring liquids down the drain or into the ground or combining items with regular trash, can be dangerous to people, pets and the environment. The Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facility accepts hazardous waste materials from residential homes only. No commercial or business waste is accepted. The facility is located at 6305 Haley Road, Memphis, and is free to Shelby County residents. The facility is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Each vehicle is restricted to 100 pounds or 15 gallons of hazardous waste drop-off per month. Additionally, each household is only allowed to drop off one electronic device (such as computers, monitors, keyboards and printers) to the HHW Collection Facility. Televisions are not accepted. Once you have visited the facility there is a 30-day waiting period before you may visit the center again.



For more information about HHW and a detailed list of accepted and unacceptable items, visit shelbycountyttn.gov/439/Household-Hazardous-Waste.



City of Germantown

1930 South Germantown Road, Germantown, TN 38138

901-757-7200

customerservice@Germantown-TN.gov

901-757-7263

neighborhoodservices@Germantown-TN.gov

