



Refuse and Recycling Guide



The Village of Oak Park's comprehensive Solid Waste Program is designed to deal with increasing amounts of trash, rising collection and disposal costs, legislative restrictions and growing environmental concerns. Mobile refuse carts available in two sizes and larger recycling containers allow residents to choose the level of service that best fits their needs. The success of the program depends on your participation. This brochure is designed to help you make decisions that take maximum advantage of the range of refuse handling options offered by the Village. Please read it carefully. You also may want to keep it for future reference. For more information on the Village's refuse and recycling program call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Collection

Trash

Yardwaste

Curbside Recycling

Alley Cleanup

A private vendor hired by the Village provides collection service once a week for all residential buildings with up to five units. All trash, recyclables and yardwaste are scheduled to be picked up on the same day of the week. The current vendor is Waste Management, which provides 64-gallon or 96-gallon mobile carts for trash. The Village provides 64-gallon blue carts or 18-gallon blue bins for recyclable materials. Additional bags of trash or bulk items must be tagged with pink refuse stickers. Green yardwaste stickers are required for collection of yardwaste and bundles of brush. Both pink and green stickers can be purchased at locations throughout the Village, including Village Hall. If your collection is missed, please call Waste Management toll free at 888.656.5350 on the following day.

Holiday Collection Schedule

If your regularly scheduled collection day falls on one of the holidays listed below, your collection, and all subsequent collections that week, will be delayed one day.

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

For more information about the weekly collection program, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us



Trash

Costs

Refuse and recycling service costs are calculated monthly and charged quarterly on water bills. Residents may choose from two levels of service — 96-gallon refuse cart service at \$15.80 per month or 64-gallon refuse cart service at \$13.30 per month. Requests for changes in service level are accepted during the month of April.

Disposal Guidelines

Trash must be placed into a tightly covered container. Loose trash will not be picked up. Place trash and recycling containers out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on the morning of your collection day. Containers placed out for collection at the curb must be removed from the curb by 6 p.m. that night. Please help care for your refuse cart in the following ways:

Spring – Check for damage. If carts have broken wheels or holes in lids, please call 708.358.5700 for a replacement.

Summer – Wash cart with mild detergent to prevent odors and insect problems.

Fall – Check for damage. If carts have broken wheels or holes in lids, please call 708.358.5700 for a replacement.

Winter – Clear snow and ice away from carts so containers can be rolled and collections made.

Prohibited Items

The following items are either prohibited by landfills, or unacceptable for collection:

- Acid
- Anti-freeze
- Automotive batteries
- Car parts
- Concrete
- Dirt and soil
- Gasoline
- Motor oil
- Paint in liquid form
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Tires

If any of these items are mixed with your trash, collection will not be made.

Extra Trash

Occasional extra trash should be put in plastic bags and placed in a container you provide. Each container may hold up to 32-gallons and must have one pink refuse sticker attached. Extra trash with stickers will be collected on your regular day. If you regularly require additional space, consider requesting another refuse cart. A container will be delivered and you will be charged accordingly for the additional trash collection.

Bulk Items

Each residential unit may place out one bulk item per week, provided that two pink refuse stickers are attached. Bulk items are defined as discarded furniture, household appliances (white goods), water tanks capable of being handled by one person and trash items not weighing more than 90 pounds. Rolls of used carpeting also may be placed out for collection. Residents may place out rolls of used carpeting provided that two pink refuse stickers are attached to each roll. Each roll must not weight more than 90 pounds, be no longer than four feet in length when folded over and have two pink refuse stickers attached. Additional bulk items, construction materials from “do-it-yourself” projects (not contracted projects) or general waste over the allowable one bulk item per week requires a special pick-up and prior arrangements. Cost is based on volume and will be estimated within 24 hours of a request for a special pickup. To make arrangements for estimating and pick-up, call Waste Management toll free at 888.656.5350.

Refuse Stickers (\$1.60 each)

Where to Buy Stickers

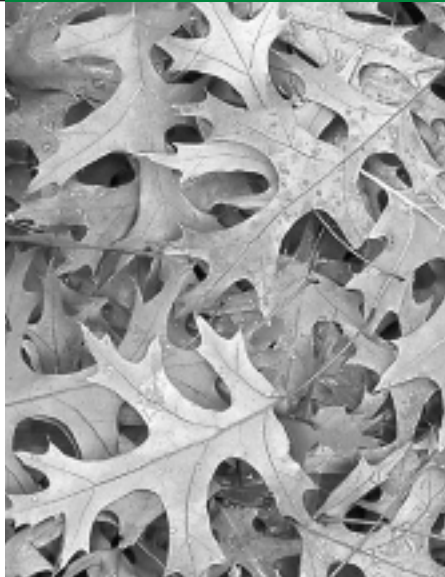
- **Dominick's Finer Foods**
259 Lake St.
- **Dressel's Ace Hardware**
1137 Chicago Ave.
- **Fair Share Finer Foods**
6226 Roosevelt Road
- **Gilchrist Hardware**
513 Madison Street
(yardwaste only)
- **Jewel Food Stores**
438 Madison Street,
7036 Roosevelt Road and
7525 Lake St., River Forest
- **P.J.'s Ace Hardware**
7 Chicago Ave.
- **Walgreens Drug Store**
6412 Roosevelt Road
- **Village Hall Cashier's Office**
123 Madison St.

Yardwaste

Yardwaste includes any greenery produced from gardening or landscaping, such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, shrubs and vines. Illinois was the first state in the nation to ban yardwaste from landfills. The Village offers several programs for those residents who wish to have their yardwaste collected. However, residents are encouraged to look for alternatives to bagging yardwaste for collection, such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders and backyard compost piles. Regularly scheduled yardwaste collection begins the first full week of April and ends November 30. Yardwaste is collected on the same day as trash if placed at the collection point by 7 a.m. Yardwaste will be collected for a fee during the winter months by appointment only. To make an appointment for collection in the winter, call Waste Management toll free at 888.656.5350. Any yardwaste mixed with trash will not be collected.

Unbundled Brush

Unbundled brush is collected year round for a fee. Branches and limbs up to three feet in diameter and four feet in length may be placed in your regular collection area without an attached sticker. Brush must be in neat, manageable piles. To make an appointment for estimating the removal cost of brush, call Waste Management toll free at 888.656.5350.



Yardwaste

Yardwaste Stickers (\$1.80 each)

A green yardwaste sticker must be attached to each:

- Paper bag (up to 32-gallons)
- Rigid container (up to 32-gallons)
- Bundle of brush (no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and weighing no more than 50 pounds)

(Free "Yardwaste Only" labels for your yardwaste container are available at Village Hall)

Fall Leaf Collection

The Village provides a six-week leaf collection program each fall at no charge. Regularly scheduled leaf collection begins in mid-October and typically lasts through November. Leaves in each section of the Village are picked up six times during the special collection period. Leaves should be raked into the street 18 inches from the curb only a day or two before the scheduled collection. The collection schedule is published prior to the program beginning. If you are unable to have leaves collected during the special collection period, you should bag the leaves, attach a green yardwaste sticker to each bag and call Waste Management toll free at 888.656.5350 to have them picked up.

Holiday Trees

The Village provides collection for Christmas and holiday trees during the second and third weeks of January. Trees are collected on your regularly scheduled pick up day as long as they are free of plastic bags, decorations and stands, and placed at your regular collection point. Wreaths and garlands should be placed in your trash container because the wire used to form them prevents mulching. All trees collected are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment.

Alley Clean-up Program

Cleaner alleys make safer alleys. The Alley Clean Up Program, developed by the Keep Oak Park Beautiful Committee, provides a kit containing plastic bags, refuse stickers, disposable rubber gloves and information on organizing a successful and safe event. Residents are encouraged to work with friends and neighbors to organize an alley cleanup.

For more information, call Public Works at 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

What can be recycled

All items, including paper, may be commingled in your blue recycling container. Many containers note if they are recyclable.

- Glass bottles and jars — all colors
- Steel, aluminum and bi-metal cans
- Plastics — look for these names or numbers surrounded by chasing arrows on or near the bottom of the container:
 - #1 (PETE)** Includes soft drink bottles, some salad dressings, some produce containers
 - #2 (HDPE)** Includes milk or water jugs, detergent bottles, some dairy or deli containers
 - #3 (PVC)** Narrow neck containers only, such as household cleaners, health and beauty products
 - #4 (LDPE)** Grocery containers such as margarine tubs or frozen dessert cups and plastic rings from beverage cans
 - #5 (PP)** Grocery containers such as yogurt cups, and narrow neck syrup and ketchup bottles
 - #7 (Other)** Plastic resin grocery narrow neck containers
- Aluminum foil and formed containers
- Empty paint cans
- Empty aerosol cans
- Juice boxes and “gable topped” cartons, such as cream and fabric softener — rinse and flatten
- Newspapers and inserts
- Magazines
- Telephone books
- Paperback books
- Chipboard, such as cereal and cracker boxes
- Wet-strength cardboard, such as beverage cartons
- Corrugated cardboard, cut and flattened in 3’ by 3’ pieces
- Junk mail, including window envelopes
- Office paper
- Gift wrapping paper
- Brown paper grocery bags



Curbside Recycling

The amount of recyclable materials you can set out for collection is not limited. The Village provides blue 64-gallon mobile carts or 18-gallon blue bins. To order additional or replacement carts or bins, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

General Recycling Guidelines

- Material must be clean and free of food waste — rinse bottles, jars and cans
- Do not use plastic bags
- Automobile fluid containers are not accepted
- Polystyrene (#6 plastic) products are not accepted
- Plastic toys and furniture are not accepted
- When in doubt, throw it out

Battery Disposal

- Non-rechargeable batteries commonly used in toys and flashlights should be disposed of in your regular trash container.
- Car batteries may be taken to local automotive service stores — check the yellow pages and

call first. One-day collection events for household hazardous waste are usually held in spring and fall.

- Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at the Public Works Service Center. Call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us for more information.

Public Access Recycling Project

With grant funds from the state, the Village worked with the South Marion Street Business Association, Downtown Oak Park and the Avenue Business District to implement a commercial recycling program in 1995. The Village has since received recognition awards from the Illinois Recycling Association as well as the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency for this innovative recycling program. The success of the program for participating businesses led to an expanded effort to provide recycling opportunities for shoppers and visitors by adding new containers near public transportation points to further increase recycling opportunities for those who live in, work in or visit Oak Park.



The Village of Oak Park Public Works Department is working with local business leaders, school officials, community groups and concerned citizens to provide a comprehensive program designed to Keep Oak Park Beautiful and litter-free. Our mission is to...

Create programs to remind and educate the community about preventing litter, minimizing waste, and enhancing the appearance of the Village.