



# 2015 Refuse and Recycling Guide

Residences up to five units

## Comprehensive approach

The Village of Oak Park's comprehensive Solid Waste Program is designed to effectively 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 large recycling containers, allow residents to choose the level of service that best fits their needs. However, the success of the program depends on citizen participation. Recycling benefits the community in a number of ways by reducing the amount of waste sent to the landfill, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and saving disposal fees. Recycled material, when used in manufacturing new products, saves water, energy and natural resources such as oil and trees. This brochure is designed to help residents make decisions that take maximum advantage of the range of refuse handling options offered by the Village. Please read it carefully – and keep it for future reference. For more information on the Village's refuse and recycling programs call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## Trash, yard waste, recycling collection services

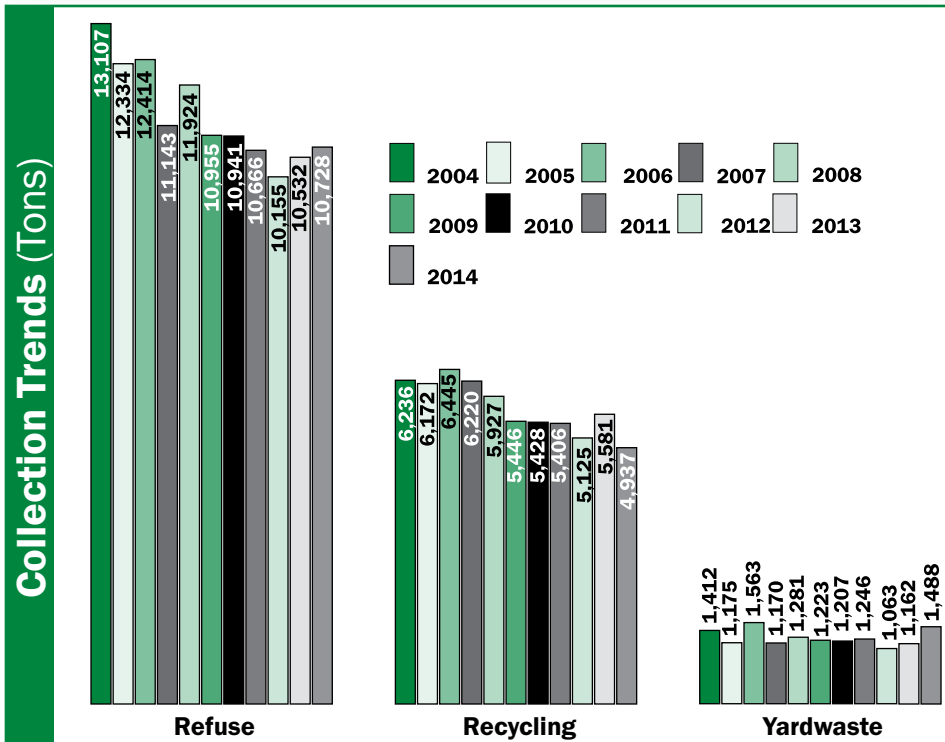
A private vendor hired by the Village provides collection service once a week for all residential buildings with up to five units. Trash, recyclables and yard waste are collected on the same day of the week. Collection days vary by geographic location (see map inside). The collection vendor provides 64-gallon or 96-gallon mobile carts for trash. The Village provides 64-gallon blue carts for recyclables. Additional bags of trash or bulk items must be tagged with pink refuse stickers. Green stickers are required for collection of yard waste and bundles of brush. Both pink and green stickers may be purchased at locations throughout the Village, including Village Hall, 123 Madison St. If your collection is missed, call 708.358.5700 the following day.

### Holiday collection schedule

If a regularly scheduled collection day falls on one of the following holidays, 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](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).





# Trash

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 \$23.88 per month or 64-gallon refuse cart service at \$19.60 per month. Requests for changes in service level are accepted during the month of April. Call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) for details.

## 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 the scheduled collection day. Containers placed out for collection at the curb should be removed by 7 p.m. that night. Residents are urged to help care for refuse carts in the following ways:

- **Spring** – Check for damage. If carts have broken wheels or holes in lids, 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, 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 trash, collection will not be made.

## Extra trash

Occasional extra trash should be put into 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 is collected on the regular collection day. Anyone regularly requiring additional space should consider requesting another refuse cart. A container will be delivered and the additional charge included in the quarterly bill.

## Refuse stickers (\$2 each)

### Where to Buy

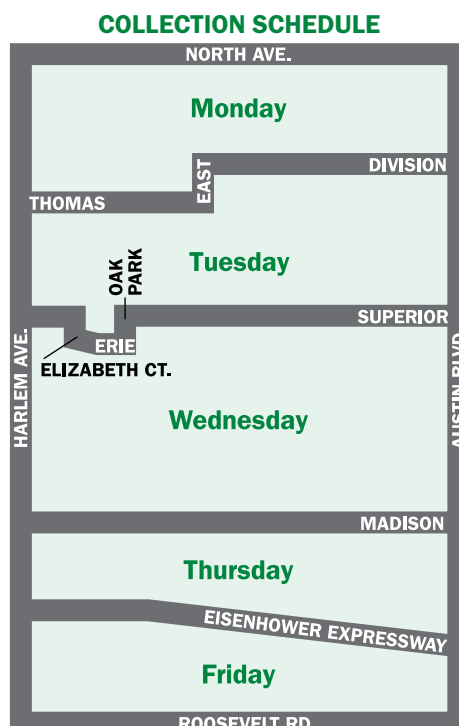
- Village Hall Cashier's Office  
123 Madison St.
- Jewel Food Stores  
438 Madison St.  
7036 Roosevelt Road  
7525 Lake St. (River Forest)
- Dressel's Ace Hardware  
1137 Chicago Ave.
- Fair Share Finer Foods  
6226 Roosevelt Road
- Schauer Hardware (yard waste only)  
7449 Madison St. (Forest Park)
- Walgreens (yard waste only)  
811 Madison St.

## Bulk items

Each residential unit may place out one bulk item per week. Two pink refuse stickers must be attached. Bulk items include discarded furniture, household appliances, water tanks capable of being handled by one person and trash items not weighing more than 50 pounds. Rolls of used carpeting also may be placed for collection. Each roll must not weigh more than 50 pounds, be longer than four feet when folded over and have two pink refuse stickers attached. Additional bulk items, construction materials from non-contractor home improvement projects and general waste over the allowable one bulk item per week require a special pick-up or small dumpster rental and prior arrangements. Cost is based on volume and will be estimated within 24 hours of a request for a special pickup. To arrange for estimating and pick up, call toll free 800.796.9696.

## Bagster Service

Bagster provides a disposal solution for home renovation projects, seasonal cleanup projects or any other activities that generate large volumes of trash, but not enough to require a commercial dumpster. Bagsters, which can be purchased at home improvement stores, hold three cubic yards and up to 3,300 pounds. Bagsters should not be placed in alleys where the crane that retrieves them may not be able to operate. A Village right-of-way permit is required for Bagsters placed in the street. Collections can be scheduled online at [www.thebagster.com](http://www.thebagster.com) or by phone at 877.789.2247. A collection fee applies.





# Yard Waste

*The Village offers several programs for yard waste collection. However, residents are encouraged to look for alternatives such as mulching mowers, leaf shredders and backyard compost piles. For more information on composting, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).*

## Yard waste

Yard waste includes any greenery produced from gardening or landscaping, such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, shrubs and vines. Regularly scheduled yard waste collection begins the first full week of April and ends the week of Nov. 30. Yard waste is collected on the same day as trash if placed at the collection point by 7 a.m. Yard waste will be collected for a fee during the winter months by appointment only. To make an appointment for collection in the winter, call toll free 800.796.9696. Any yard waste mixed with trash will not be collected.

## Yard waste stickers (\$2.40 each)

A green yard waste 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

Yard waste stickers may be purchased where you buy refuse stickers. Free *Yard Waste Only* container labels are available at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

## Unbundled brush

Unbundled brush is collected year round for a fee. Branches and limbs up to three inches in diameter and four feet in length may be placed in the regular collection area without an attached sticker. Brush must be in neat, manageable piles. To make an appointment for estimating the brush removal cost, call toll free 800.796.9696.

## Fall leaf collection

The Village provides a free six-week leaf collection program each fall. 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, but not more than a day or two before the scheduled collection. The collection schedule is published prior to the program beginning. Anyone unable to have leaves collected during the special collection period should bag the leaves, attach a green yard waste sticker to each bag and call toll free 800.796.9696 to have them picked up.

## Holiday trees

The Village collects holiday trees during the second and third weeks of January. All collected trees are mulched at a licensed composting facility and used for soil enrichment. Trees are collected on the regularly scheduled refuse pick-up day as long as they are free of plastic bags, decorations and stands, and placed at the regular collection point. Wreaths and garlands should be placed in the trash container because the wire used to form them prevents mulching. After the collection period, one pink refuse sticker will be required to have a holiday tree removed.

## Holiday lights

Holiday lights are collected for recycling during December and January. Mini, C7, C9, rope and LED lights as well as extension cords are accepted. A drop-off box is available from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd. Call

708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) for more information.

## Composting

With the goal of decreasing the amount of amount of organic refuse sent to landfills, the Village offers a food scrap composting collection program for single-family and up to five-flat households using Village refuse and recycling services. Residents who participate in the project will receive a 96-gallon cart for weekly collection of organics, an under-sink collection bucket and a box of compostable bags for food scraps. Both yard waste and food scraps may be placed in the organics cart. However, bagged food scraps must be contained in a bag labeled compostable that meets ASTM 6400 standards. The 96-gallon cart for organics is comparable in volume to three bags or containers of yard waste collected in the current program. Subscribers who use the organics cart for their yard waste and food scraps will not be required to purchase yard waste stickers. The program is offered on a voluntary, subscription basis. The subscription cost is \$14 per month, which is about the cost of one yard waste sticker per week. Residents who maintain backyard compost piles or who mulch grass clippings may wish to investigate sharing organics carts and costs with neighbors.



## 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 clean up. For more information, call Public Works at 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).**



# Curbside Recycling

The Village's single-stream recycling program eliminates the need to separate recyclables. Paper, cans and bottles that meet recycling guidelines can be placed together in the same container. The amount of recyclable materials set out for collection is not limited. The Village provides blue 64-gallon mobile carts. To order additional or replacement carts, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).

## What can be recycled

All items, including paper, may be placed together in the blue recycling container. Many containers note if they are recyclable. These items are recyclable:

- Aluminum foil and formed containers
- Brown paper grocery bags
- Chipboard, such as cereal and cracker boxes
- Clean bundled plastic bags — no loose bags
- Corrugated cardboard, cut and flattened into 3' by 3' pieces
- Empty aerosol cans
- Empty paint cans
- Gift wrapping paper
- Glass bottles and jars — all colors
- Juice boxes and gable-topped cartons, such as cream and fabric softener — rinse and flatten
- Junk mail, including window envelopes
- Magazines
- Newspapers and inserts
- Office paper
- Paperback books
- Steel, aluminum and bi-metal cans
- Telephone books
- Wet-strength cardboard, such as beverage cartons
- 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

## General recycling guidelines

- Material must be clean and free of food waste. Rinse bottles, jars and cans. Discard caps and lids.
- Do not use plastic bags to hold paper or containers
- 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 placed in the regular trash container.
- Car batteries should be taken to local automotive service stores — call first.
- Rechargeable batteries may be recycled at the Public Works Service Center. Call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us) for more information.

## Beyond the Bin recycling guide

Residents may find recycling opportunities for items not accepted in the weekly collection program in the *Beyond the Bin Recycling Guide* posted at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us).

## Electronics Recycling

Electronic items may be dropped off at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., on the last Saturday of the month May through October. Acceptable items include computers, peripherals, laptops, monitors,

TVs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, printers, fax machines, MP3 players, portable digital assistants, video game consoles, videocassette recorders/players, digital videodisk players, zip drives, scanners and microwaves. The program is sponsored in part by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and Vintage Tech Recyclers. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).



## Telephone Books

To control or eliminate delivery of unwanted telephone books visit [www.YellowPagesOptOut.com](http://www.YellowPagesOptOut.com).

The service is easy, secure and free.



## Adopt a block

Residents, community groups or business owners are invited to adopt a block by committing to removing litter from their area at least once a month for a year. Keep Oak Park Beautiful will provide trash bags, refuse stickers, gloves, safety vests and an adopt-a-block sign listing the name of the participating individual or group.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).