

# Refuse and Recycling Guide 2020

The Village of Oak Park provides waste hauling services to single-family homes and multifamily dwellings with five or fewer units. Owners and managers of larger multifamily buildings negotiate separate contracts with private collection companies, which means the level of services available to residents who live in these buildings may vary widely. Residents not served by the municipal program should contact the property management company or condominium association board to discuss the range of available services. Collection fees for homes served by the Village contractor appear on quarterly water bills. Rates vary by the size and number of garbage carts allocated to specific addresses. Residents served by the municipal hauling program are encouraged to regularly review their water bills to ensure the correct amount is being charged. For more information on the Village of Oak Park's refuse and recycling programs, call 708.358.5700 or visit [www.oak-park.us/refuse](http://www.oak-park.us/refuse).

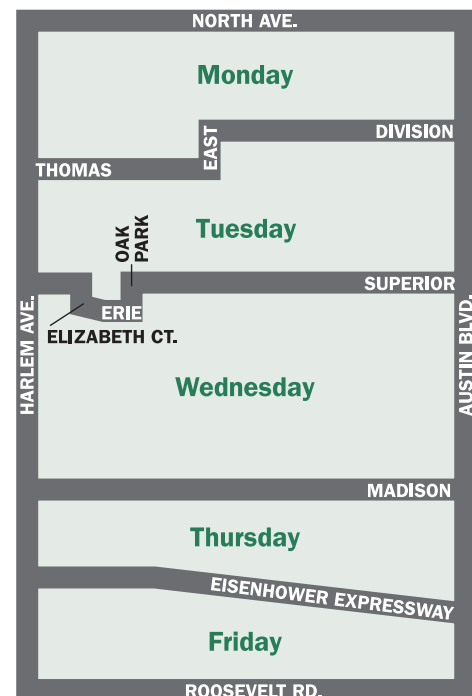
## Collection Schedule

Refuse and recycling is collected each weekday based on the location in the map. Holidays may delay collection by one day. Carts should be placed out for collection no later than 7 a.m. on the morning of collection day. Carts placed at the curb must be removed by 10 p.m. Composting collection dates may vary during the winter months.

## Holiday collections

If a regularly scheduled collection day falls on one of the following holidays, all subsequent collections that week will be delayed one day. Residents with Friday refuse collection will receive Saturday service:

- 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).

## Recycling Right

Recycling facilities accept the most commonly used items such as paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and plastic, glass and aluminum containers. The greatest causes of contamination are plastic bags/wrap, foods and liquids. Residents are encouraged to review the items placed into their recycling carts to ensure the intended items are actually acceptable materials. To help maintain the integrity of Oak Park's recycling program, and avoid contamination, please keep the following important guidelines in mind:

### Accepted Recyclable Items

#### Paper Items

- Newspaper, inserts and magazines
- Corrugated cardboard (cut and flattened into sections)
- Paperback books and catalogs
- Junk mail, including window envelopes and gift wrapping paper
- Wet and dry strength cardboard, such as cereal boxes and milk cartons

#### Glass Items

- All colors of clean bottles and jars

#### Metal Items

- Steel, aluminum and bi-metal cans
- Empty aerosol cans

**Plastic Items** – look for numbers below:

**#1 (PETE)** Includes soda bottles, some salad dressings, some produce containers

**#2 (HDPE)** Includes milk and water containers, laundry detergent bottles

**#3 (PVC)** Narrow neck containers only, such as household cleaners, health and beauty products

**#4 (LDPE)** Grocery containers such as margarine tubs and frozen dessert cups

**#5 (PP)** Grocery containers such as yogurt cups and narrow neck syrup and ketchup bottles

**#7 (Other)** Plastic resin grocery narrow neck containers

## When in doubt...

- If recycling food containers, make sure all food and liquids have been removed
- Do not place plastic bags/wrap inside blue recycling cart
- Empty all glass/plastic containers, place lid back on container and tightly seal
- Empty all tin, bi-metal and aluminum cans, making sure they do not contain any food debris
- Do not recycle tissues, paper towels or other paper that has been in contact with food
- Makes sure aerosol cans are empty
- Do not recycle polystyrene #6 plastic (Styrofoam) products

## Electronic and Hazardous Waste

Residents in single-family homes and buildings with five or fewer units can schedule *At Your Door* special collection of materials such as toxic chemicals and fluids, latex and oil based paint, needles, household cleaners, holiday lights and CFL lightbulbs as well as electronic items like televisions, computers, fax machines, printers and cell phones. The service may be scheduled with a toll-free call to 1.800.449.7587. A collection kit will be mailed that includes instructions on how to package the materials and where to place them for collection. Nearly 90% of materials collected are recycled.

## Plastic bags out

Putting plastic bags into a blue cart drives up costs and drives down the value of the Oak Park's curbside recycling program. Typically, the plastic bags end up wrapped around equipment, bringing the processing line to a halt and requiring workers to remove the bags by hand in a harrowing experience that sometimes occurs multiple times a day. The bags that don't jam up the equipment are likely to be caught within the neatly bound bundles of cardboard, bringing down their value for reuse. Clean plastic bags should be returned to grocery stores and big-box retailers that collect them for proper recycling. Using plastic bags to collect and carry recyclables to the bin is okay, so long as you empty them into the recycling bin and then put the bag with those going to retailers, or toss the bag into the regular trash.

## Special collection stickers

**Pink bulk refuse stickers** are needed for any trash that does not fit in the official trash container. One pink refuse sticker must be attached to each 32-gallon trash bag/container. Two pink refuse stickers are required for larger items. One bulk item is allowed per household each week. Items must not weigh more than 50 pounds. Construction debris will not be collected under the residential refuse program. Contact Waste Management at 1.800.796.9696 for options on construction debris removal.

**Green yard waste stickers** must be attached to paper yard waste bag up to 32 gallons, rigid containers up to 32 gallons and

bundles of brush no larger than two feet in diameter, four feet in length and weighing no more than 50 pounds. Yard waste is collected April 1 – November 30. Residents who prefer year-round collection of organics can sign up to compost at [www.oak-park.us/compostable](http://www.oak-park.us/compostable).

### Where to Buy Refuse Stickers

- **Village Hall Cashier's Office**,  
123 Madison Street
- **Jewel Food Stores**:  
438 Madison St.; 7036  
Roosevelt Road; 7525 Lake St.,  
River Forest
- **Pete's Fresh Market**,  
259 Lake St.

## CompostAble Program

With the goal of decreasing the amount of organic waste sent to landfills, the Village offers a food scrap composting collection program for residential households of up to five units. Residents who participate in the program receive a gray 96-gallon cart for weekly collection of organics, a three-gallon food scrap kitchen pail and a sample of compostable bags for food scraps. Both yard waste and food scraps may be placed in the organics cart. Bags for food scraps must be labeled compostable and meet the ASTM 6400 standards. Subscribers who use the organics cart for yard waste and food scraps will not be required to purchase yard waste stickers. The organic cart subscription cost is \$15.30 per month, and new subscribers receive three months free with a one year commitment. Residents can share an organic cart with one other neighbor reducing the monthly cost to \$7.65 each. The equivalent cost for organic service using yard waste stickers is \$37.20. CompostAble participants save \$21.90 a month. More information is posted at [www.oak-park.us/compostable](http://www.oak-park.us/compostable) or scan the QR code below:



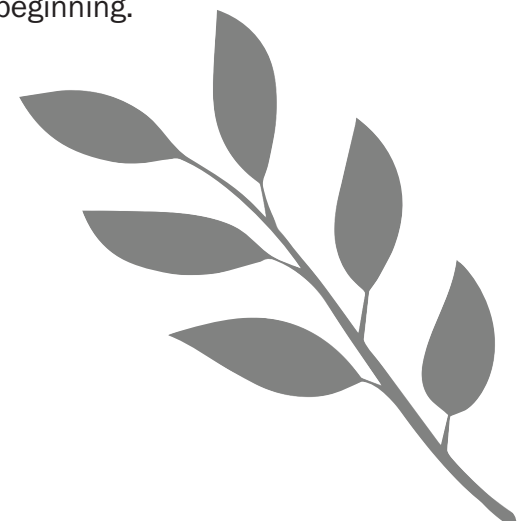
Scan with your smartphone camera

## Holiday trees

The Village collects holiday trees during the second and third weeks of January. Trees are collected on the regularly scheduled refuse collection day and must be stored next to the refuse carts. Trees containing any type of decorations will not be collected. After the collection period, residents must call 708.358.5700 to schedule a holiday tree collection. One green yard waste refuse sticker must be attached to the tree for removal.

## Leaf Collection

The Village offers a leaf collection program each fall. Collection begins in mid-October and typically lasts into early December. The program allows residents to rake their leaves into the street by the curb on specific days of the week based on geographic sections of the Village. Leaves raked into the street are pushed into piles by Public Works crews during the night to reduce impact on traffic and parked cars, and then collected the following day. Residents are urged not to toss in brush, pumpkins or plant matter that can contaminate the leaf recycling stream. The collection schedule is published in the *OP/FYI* newsletter and posted online at [www.oak-park.us](http://www.oak-park.us) prior to the collection program beginning.



## 2020 Refuse Collection Rates

### Trash

64-gallon green cart	\$77.25/quarter
96-gallon green/brown cart	\$85.05/quarter

### Recycling

64-gallon blue cart	No Charge
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### Composting

#### Single 96-gallon gray

April 1 – Nov. 30	\$45.90/quarter
Dec. 1 – March 31	\$22.95/quarter

#### Shared 96-gallon gray

April 1 – Nov. 30	\$22.95/quarter
Dec. 1 – March 31	\$11.48/quarter

### Refuse Stickers

Green yard waste	\$3.10 each
Pink extra garbage	\$3.10 each

### Electronic/Hazardous Waste

At Your Door Collection	No Charge
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- Garbage, recycling and composting charges on quarterly water bill
- Yard waste collected from April – November
- Two pink stickers are required on all items exceeding 32-gallon trash bag
- Missed refuse collection – call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us)
- Special collections such as appliances or other non-standard services call 1.800.796.9696
- Place yard waste bags/container in front of refuse carts
- Keep refuse carts free of ice and snow

## When extra bags aren't enough

When extra bags with stickers aren't enough to meet a particular disposal need, consider a portable solution. The Village's contract hauler offers a creative 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. Small, portable bags called Bagsters may be purchased for about \$30 at home improvement stores and placed in an area where a crane can retrieve it. The bags are made of tough, woven material and can hold three cubic yards of up to 3,300 pounds. Bagsters should not be placed in alleys where the crane may not be able to operate. A Village right-of-way obstruction permit is needed if the Bagster is placed in the street – visit [www.oak-park.us/villageview](http://www.oak-park.us/villageview) to apply for a permit. Bagster collection can be scheduled online at [www.thebagster.com](http://www.thebagster.com) or by phone at 877.789.2247. An additional collection fee will be charged.

## Composting pilot for apartment dwellers



The Village is testing a pilot program for residents who live in multifamily buildings too large to participate in the Village collection program, but who still wish to compost. Food scraps may be placed in labeled carts at the water pump station, 102 N. Lombard Ave. Scraps may be stored in ASTM 6400 standard compostable bags or wrapped in newspaper. Please help avoid contamination by not placing plastic bags or other non-organic material into the cart. The contents of contaminated carts cannot be composted. The Oak Park Farmers Market, 460 Lake St., accepts food scraps from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the Market Season, which is about mid-May through October.

## Alley Clean Up Program

The Alley Clean-Up Program encourages residents to work with friends and neighbors to clean up their alley. The program provides a kit containing plastic bags, refuse stickers, disposable rubber gloves and information on organizing a successful and safe alley clean up event. Cleaner alleys make safer alleys. For more information, call 708.358.5700 or email [publicworks@oak-park.us](mailto:publicworks@oak-park.us).