

Alachua County,  
Florida

Solid Waste &  
Resource Recovery

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt, is shown from the chest up. She is holding a white trash bag with orange handles, and she appears to be in the process of putting something into it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green and blue tones.

# Let's Talk Trash.

Residential Recycling and  
Trash Disposal Guide

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[AlachuaCountyRecycles.com](https://www.alachua-county.com/Recycles)  
(352)-338-3233

# recycling CREATES OPPORTUNITY

## Think Before You Throw

Before we talk trash, let's talk about how to avoid trash. Remember the 3R's:

### Reduce:

- Choose items with less packaging
- Avoid single-use plastic
- Use reusable shopping bags

### Reuse:

- Buy used instead of new
- Donate instead of disposing
- Upcycle and reimagine

### Recycle:

- Use your blue and orange bins

## Community Services

Want to invite our staff to teach a FREE program? We provide engaging and informative presentations for schools, clubs and community groups and informational tabling at festivals, fairs and other events.

Or sign up for a free educational tour of the Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station - open to individuals and community groups. On your guided trolley tour of our working facility, you will see how

municipal solid waste, hazardous waste and recycling is managed in Alachua County.

To invite us to your next event or to schedule a tour, fill out the form at [AlachuaCountyRecycles.com](http://AlachuaCountyRecycles.com).

## Tools for Schools

This reusable resource center for Alachua County public school teachers accepts donations of new and gently used items. Located at 1147 SE 7th Avenue in Gainesville, teachers can shop for free items such as paper, pencils, crayons, and office or art supplies.

Visit [ToolsforSchools.alachua.fl.us](http://ToolsforSchools.alachua.fl.us) for more information or call 352-374-5213.

## Curbside Trash Pickup ..... 1

Garbage Curbside Collection ..... 1

Right Size Your Garbage Cart..... 2

Curbside Special Pickup ..... 3

Yard Waste Curbside Collection ..... 4

Tips for a Waste-Free Yard ..... 4

Recycling Curbside Collection ..... 5

## Hazardous Waste Recycling And Disposal ..... 7

Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HWCC) ... 7

E-Scrap..... 8

Rural Collection Centers (RCCs)..... 8

Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station..... 8

## Apartments, Condos or Mobile Home Parks ..... 9

## Contact Information..... 10

## Garbage and Recycling Drop Off..... 11

Rural Collection Centers (RCCs)..... 12





# CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP

## Garbage Curbside Collection

Garbage, recycling, and yard waste are all collected on the same day.

**Place your garbage cart curbside by 7 am on your scheduled collection day.**



Remove your garbage cart from the curb between collection days (remove by 9 pm on the day collection has occurred).

Please follow these instructions...

- **Leave at least 4 feet of clearance on all sides of your cart.** Obstructions such as recycle bins, yard waste, bulk items, mail boxes, poles etc. may prevent the automated truck from emptying your cart.
- Set your garbage cart **within 4 feet of the curb** or the traveled edge of the road, with the **front of the cart facing the street**. So that the mechanical arm on the garbage truck can reach the cart.
- Do **not** place your cart in the street or in the path of mail trucks. Do **not** block the driveway of your neighbors or block the sidewalk.

You may be eligible for back-door service at no additional charge if you have a disability or other physical limitation. Please call 352-338-3233 for more information.

## Holidays

Only these six holidays will affect collection service:

**New Year's Day**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday**  
**Memorial Day**  
**July 4th**  
**Thanksgiving Day**  
**Christmas Day**

Collection for these holidays and the remainder of the week will be delayed by one day if the observed holiday occurs on a weekday. Collection will return to the normal schedule the following week. Collection will not be delayed if the holiday falls on the weekend.

Trash carts and recycling bins placed curbside will be emptied once a week. Call the Office of Waste Collection 352-338-3233 to find out your designated collection day.

## Be Cart Smart!

Please follow these guidelines:

- ✗ Do **not** overfill your garbage cart. Garbage should not exceed the height of the top rim of your cart.
- ✗ Do **not** pile bags of garbage on top of or around the cart.
- ✗ Do **not** place unacceptable items in your garbage cart, including solvents, paints, sharps (medical needles), dead animals, hot ashes, or flammable liquids. (See Hazardous Waste on page 7 & 8)
- ✓ Do bag and tie trash to prevent litter from flying out.
- ✓ Do contain animal waste and cat litter in plastic bags.

**For cart repairs or replacement, call 352-338-3233.**

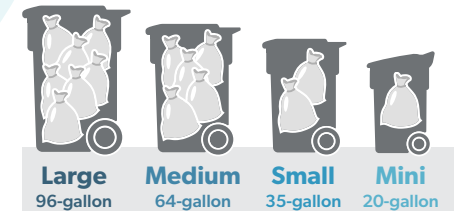
## Official Yellow Bags

Excess garbage must be placed in Official Yellow Bags and set out for collection near your garbage cart. Purchase bags at Publix. Each Official Yellow Bag holds approximately 30 gallons of garbage and has a weight limit of 40 pounds per bag. Excess waste set out in personal containers, boxes or not in Official Yellow Bags, will **not** be collected.



## Right Size Your Garbage Cart

Households are billed for trash pickup based on cart size. Unincorporated Alachua County residents are charged annually on their Property Tax Bill. City of Gainesville Residents will see charges on their GRU bills. Call 352-338-3233 to see if you can save money by switching to a smaller cart.



**Think before you throw - can an item be reused, recycled, or donated?**

Households are billed for trash pickup based on cart size. Call the Office of Waste Collection at 352-338-3233 to see if you can save money by switching to a smaller cart.

## Curbside Special Pickup

### Bulk Items

Bulk Items that are too large to fit in your garbage cart or an Official Yellow Bag must be placed 4 ft. from your garbage cart and recycle bins. These items can include bicycles, plastic play sets, tables, chairs, sofas, desks, mattresses, etc.

### Appliances

Residents who would like appliances such as stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators and freezers picked up must call the Office of Waste Collection at 352-338-3233 to schedule a free pickup.

Refrigerators and freezers must be empty. Remove doors, or securely close doors with tape or zip ties to prevent accidental lock-ins.

### Interior Home Repair Material

Interior Home Repair Material (2 cubic yards max) such as cabinets, ceiling fans, inside doors, molding trim, sinks and toilets are eligible for curbside pickup. Carpet must be cut and rolled in 5 ft. sections weighing less than 40 lbs. each.

**For Exterior Construction & Demolition material ie. fencing and siding, see page 11.**

## Moving or taking an extended vacation?

When you move, please leave your cart and recycling bins behind for new tenants to use. If taking an extended vacation – 90 days or more – you may be eligible for a vacation credit by petitioning Alachua County for a refund at the end of the fiscal year. Call the Office of Waste Collection at 352-338-3233 for more information.



## Yard Waste Curbside Collection

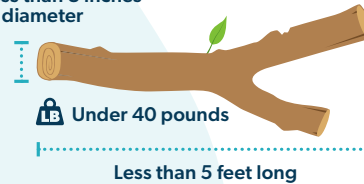
Place yard waste curbside in reusable containers or in paper lawn & leaf bags, set 4 ft. from your garbage cart on your designated trash collection day. Reusable containers include plastic or metal collection bins available from most home goods or home improvement stores. Paper lawn & leaf bags are available at your local Publix Super Markets, Lowe's, The Home Depot, and other retailers.



### Yard waste includes:

- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Grass and shrub clippings
- ✓ Small tree limbs (smaller than 5 ft. long, 8 inches in diameter, and 40 lbs. each piece or bundled)

Less than 8 inches in diameter



### Yard waste does not include:

- ✗ Boards, fencing, landscape timbers, or lumber
- ✗ Dirt, rocks, brick, or concrete

Cans or bundles should not exceed 40 lbs. each. Yard waste should never be placed on the street or in storm drains.

**Oversized yard waste can be collected by GFL for a fee. Call 352-377-0800 for an estimate.**

### Tips for a Waste-Free Yard

It is important to properly dispose of yard waste because you can divert it from entering the landfill while helping to replenish soil nutrients.

Instead of putting your yard waste to the curb, try a few different tricks to maintain a waste-free yard.

- Use a mulching mower blade to cut your grass and leaves into smaller clippings. Your lawn will decompose them, producing an environmentally healthy lawn that is nutrient rich.
- Use leaves and small shrub trimmings as mulch or add to your backyard compost pile.
- Use small limbs and branches as kindling or fuel for your fire pit or grill.

**For information on free backyard wire composting bins, call 352-338-3233.**



## Recycling Curbside Collection

Recycling is included with your curbside collection service. Place accepted items in the color-coded bins, as shown below. Set bins curbside (4 feet from other items) by 7 am on your scheduled collection day.

All recyclables should be empty, clean of food residue, and loose (not in plastic bags) inside your bins.

# Recycle RIGHT!



### ORANGE BINS



Clean Cardboard



Cereal Boxes



Newspapers & Magazines



Junk Mail & Office Paper



Clean Paper Bags



Paperback Books

### BLUE BINS



Plastic Bottles



Jars



Glass Bottles



Yogurt Tub



Steel & Aluminum Cans



Plastic Jugs

## Non-Recyclable Items

### NOT ACCEPTED



LIDS OR PLASTIC STRAWS OF ANY KIND



FROZEN FOOD TRAYS OR BLACK PLASTIC OF ANY KIND



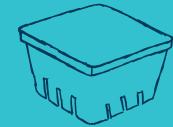
CLAMSHELL CONTAINERS (BLUEBERRY CONTAINERS) OR SUPERMARKET TO-GO CONTAINERS



PLASTIC CUPS OR TAKE-OUT CUPS (coffee or soda cups)



TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS OF ANY KIND



COMPOSTABLE, BIODEGRADABLE OR DEGRADABLE CONTAINERS (commonly listed as "bio-plastics")



EGG CARTONS (STYROFOAM + PLASTIC)



POLYSTYRENE FOAM (STYROFOAM)

Not sure if something is recyclable?  
Scan the QR code below and ask the  
Gainesville Zero Waste Wizard:



AlachuaCountyRecycles.com



# HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL



## Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HWCC)

The Alachua County Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department offers a free service to Alachua County households for the proper disposal and recycling of household hazardous waste. Some of the items that may be brought to the Hazardous Waste Collection Center include:

- Batteries of all types
- Automotive Fluids and Oil Filters
- Flammable Products (gasoline, solvents)
- Electronic Scrap (E-Scrap) including TVs and computer monitors
- Fluorescent Lamps and CFLs (Compact Florescent Lamps)
- Paint Products
- Pharmaceuticals and Sharps (needles)
- Poisons, Pesticides, Pool Chemicals

For a complete list of accepted items, please call the HWCC at 352-334-0440 or visit [AlachuaCountyHazWaste.us](http://AlachuaCountyHazWaste.us) (address and hours of operation on page 11).

## E-Scrap

Consumer electronics contain a variety of heavy metals and other substances known to pose hazards to human and environmental health. Non-working or obsolete items such as TVs, computers, printers, cell phones, etc. should be dropped off at the HWCC or Rural Collection Centers. There is no charge for this service for Alachua County residents (a fee applies for businesses). If items are still in good working condition, please consider donating to your local thrift store.

## Rural Collection Centers (RCCs)

The RCCs are rural, regional facilities for the collection of recyclables, solid waste, yard waste, bulk items, and household hazardous waste. These facilities are for residential use only. There is a limit of one visit per day. The load limit is one level truck bed per day of any combination of bagged household garbage, yard waste, or any other accepted item. See page 12 for the five collection centers' addresses and phone numbers. Contact your local RCC for a complete list of accepted items.

## Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station

If you are over your load limit for the RCCs, or if you have a prohibited item (such as a tire), visit the Transfer Station. Here, you can dispose of appliances, tires, garbage, and yard waste for a processing fee.

While you are visiting the Leveda Brown Environmental Park, you can also pick up some mulch for your yard. Mulch is available free of charge - just bring a truck or container to haul the load!

**To arrange for a complimentary tour of the Environmental Park, please call 352-338-3233.**



# APARTMENTS, CONDOS OR MOBILE HOME PARKS

If you live in a multi-family residence, you may have a centralized garbage and recycling station in your complex. Check with your property's management for garbage and recycling options.



## Dual Stream Commercial

Many complexes have large 96 gallon carts or even dumpster size containers with signs indicating what type of recycling material goes in each bin.



## Single Stream Commercial

Your complex may contract with a waste hauler that does not follow dual stream (Orange & Blue) recycling separation rules. This material is not processed by the County. With any bins, be sure to read the signs to recycle right.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Your feedback helps us serve you better. Please feel free to contact our customer information lines:

**Alachua County Office of Waste Collection .....352-338-3233**

wastecollection@alachuacounty.us  
Open Mon-Thurs 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

**Alachua County Office of Waste Alternatives.....352-374-5213**

Open Mon-Thurs 7:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Offers educational programs and environmental park tours for youth and adults.

**City of Gainesville Solid Waste Division .....352-334-2330**

gainesville.gov/recycle  
Open Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Green For Life Environmental (GFL) .....352-377-0800**

Open Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Sat 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

## Municipal Partners

Alachua County and the communities of Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, LaCrosse, Micanopy, Newberry, and Waldo help support countywide waste-reduction programs.

## Questions

For questions about any of our waste collection, recycling, or waste alternative programs visit **AlachuaCountyRecycles.com** or call 352-338-3233.

# GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DROP OFF

Some County residents do not have curbside service, or choose to dispose of items on their own, instead of waiting for curbside pickup. County residents may drop off material at the Transfer Station (for a fee) or bring one level truck bed load per day of residential garbage to one of the Rural Collection Centers for no additional cost.

## Main Facility: Leveda Brown Environmental Park (LBEP) ..... 352-334-0172

5115 NE 63rd Avenue, Gainesville  
Mon-Fri 7:00 am – 5:00 pm | Sat 7:00 am – Noon  
Closed Sundays and Holidays

## Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HWCC) ..... 352-334-0440

5125 NE 63rd Avenue, Gainesville  
Mon-Fri 7:00 am – 5:00 pm | Sat 8:00 am – Noon  
[www.AlachuaCountyHazwaste.us](http://www.AlachuaCountyHazwaste.us)

## Additional Resources

### Exterior Construction & Demolition (C&D) Disposal

Call for prices and information.  
Florence: 352-375-9919  
Watson: 352-472-3414  
Transfer Station: 352-548-1326

## Rural Collection Centers (RCCs)

**Materials accepted at RCCs:**  
Garbage, Recycling, Mixed Metals, Limited Hazardous Waste,  
Yard Waste and Bulk Items

**Hours of Operation:**  
Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

**Archer** ..... 352-495-3257  
19401 SW Archer Rd.

**Alachua/High Springs** ..... 386-454-2563  
16929 NW US HWY 441

**Fairbanks** ..... 352-334-3873  
9920 NE Waldo Rd.

**North Central** ..... 352-334-3875  
10714 North State Rd. 121

**Phifer** ..... 352-334-3874  
11700 SE Hawthorne Rd.





**Alachua County**  
Office of Waste Collection  
5620 NW 120th Lane  
Gainesville, FL 32653



Please Don't **BAG YOUR**  
**RECYCLABLES**



Recyclables in plastic bags interfere with the sorting process. Simply place loose recyclables in your recycling bin and use a reusable container if you need to transport them. You've helped bring your recyclables this far, now help them reach their full potential by recycling them correctly.