

From Markus Russell on Thursday, December 10, 2009 3:52 PM:

Recently I have received some emails about Bulk Trash items being placed out at times when not allowed. I am sure most of you know that the City of Fort Worth only allows items to be placed out for Bulk pick up certain times of the month. If complaints come into about these issues it gets passed onto Code Enforcement to issue the appropriate citations.

What people don't realize is that many of these items that are being placed on the curb line for several weeks are one man's trash but another man's treasure. When this occurs you may be thinking that you are doing someone else a favor by leaving good items for someone who may be in need. That may be true but what you are also doing is inviting unnecessary attention and traffic on your streets, both of which leads to potential crimes, traffic congestion or even accidents. When people who don't necessarily belong in your neighborhood cruise though and see what you have on the street sometimes start looking in your house windows, car windows and back yard areas. They may be appearing to be innocent curb shopping but what they could be doing is using that as an excuse to scope out any easy targets to break into.

Please follow the cities instructions listed below

Bulky Items Collection - Monthly

How can I get my bulky items picked up?

The city picks up bulky items monthly according to a set schedule. Call (817) 392-EASY (3279) for details or visit www.fortworthgov.org/dem

What can I set out for bulky items pickup?

Items that are too large, heavy or bulky to fit in the garbage cart, such as:

- Appliances that do not contain refrigerant, gasoline or other chemicals*
- Fencing/lumber
- Furniture, mattresses and sofas
- Remodeling debris from small projects performed by the resident at the address where materials are set out
- Root balls or stumps
- Tree limbs larger than 4 inches in diameter

**For refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners, a copy of a receipt from a certified technician is required to prove refrigerant (Freon®) has been safely removed.*

What items will bulky items crews not pick up?

- Appliances that contain refrigerant, gasoline or other chemicals, including air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers and lawnmowers
- Automobile parts and car batteries
- Contractor-generated remodeling and demolition debris such as shingles, tiles, wallboard and lumber. (Tip: When residents hire contractors to perform remodeling work, they should verify that their estimate includes disposal or landfill fees.)
- Electronics such as computers and televisions
- Paints, liquids, poisons, explosives or other hazardous wastes

- Rocks and concrete
- Small, loose items
- Sheetrock
- Roofing Shingles
- Tires
- Glass doors or windows

How much can I set out each month?

Residents may set out up to 10 cubic yards of bulky items, which is approximately 8 feet long, 6 feet wide and 6 feet tall (about the size of a Volkswagen Beetle car) each month. Residents will be charged \$65 for every 5 cubic yards over this limit plus a one-time \$10 administrative fee. Maximum legal pile size that crews will pick up is 30 cubic yards.

Drop-off Stations for Recycling, Garbage, Brush, Bulky Items and Electronics

How do I drop off recyclables, garbage, brush, bulky items or electronics?

The city has several free drop-off stations for recycling, garbage and bulky items. Drop-off stations are open to homeowners and renters for disposal of recyclables, as well as old tires (limit four per household every six months), furniture, TVs, computers, electronics, minor remodeling debris, brush and yard trimmings. To use a drop-off station, residents must show a recent Fort Worth water bill, a current driver's license or other official ID with a Fort Worth address. Not accepted are: business waste or hazardous waste, double-axle trailers, and vehicles identified with business names.

What are the Drop-off Station locations?

- 2400 Brennan Ave. (west of I-35W off North Side Drive)
- 5150 Martin Luther King Jr. Freeway (exit Village Creek off U.S. Hwy 287)
- 6260 Old Hemphill Road (South of Loop 820/I-20, West of I-35W at Alta Mesa Blvd. off I-35W)

What are the Drop-off Station hours of operation?

- Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What can I drop off at these locations?

- Appliances containing coolant
- Recyclables *
- Bagged garbage *
- Bulky items *
- Computers (working or not)
- Electronics, including computers and up to two TVs per household every six months (working or not)
- Yard trimmings including leaves, grass, brush, limbs and stumps
- Tires (up to four passenger tires per household every six months)

* See related sections for detailed lists

What can't I drop off at these locations?

- Explosives or ammunition
- Gasoline, oil, antifreeze or other household hazardous waste
- Major construction and demolition debris (more than 10 cubic yards)
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Rocks, dirt or concrete

- Roofing shingles
- Waste from businesses or commercial activities

What about computers and electronics?

Computers and electronics are accepted. Also, up to two televisions per household every six months.

How do the drop-off stations work?

Residents must unload their own materials and place them in the appropriate container(s). City workers check identification and direct residents to separate containers for recyclables, bulky items, brush and bagged garbage. Children under age 12 and pets must remain in the vehicle.

Disposing of Household Hazardous Waste

Residents of Fort Worth and several other communities have two free options for disposing of leftover household chemicals:

- Environmental Collection Center
- “Crud Cruiser” Neighborhood Mobile Collection Unit

What kinds of materials may I dispose of?

Acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze, batteries of all kinds, brake fluid, cleansers, cooking oils, craft chemicals, degreasers, drain cleaner, fertilizer, fluorescent light bulbs (do not break), herbicides, household chemicals, motor oil, paints, stains, thinners, pest strips, pesticides, pharmaceuticals (old medicines), photo chemicals, pool chemicals, oil filters, solvents, transmission fluid, varnish and mercury thermometers.

What is not accepted?

Ammunition, appliances, asbestos, brush, tires, building materials, butane cylinders, computers, electronics, explosives, waste containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), propane cylinders, radioactive material, smoke alarms, syringes and tubing, televisions or tires.

Where is the Environmental Collection Center and when is it open?

The center is located at 6400 Bridge St. in east Fort Worth. It is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

What does it cost to use the center?

It is free to Fort Worth residents who show proof of residency with a recent water bill or driver’s license or other official ID with a Fort Worth address. This will be used to verify your active sanitation account.

What does the Environmental Collection Center do with usable leftover paint, cleansers, oil and other hazardous products?

The center offers some reusable materials to residents at no charge. These materials are on a first come, first serve basis. Other materials are recycled or disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

What is the “Crud Cruiser” or Mobile Collection Unit?

The Crud Cruiser is a mobile collection vehicle that comes to designated neighborhoods in Fort Worth to collect household chemicals from residents. Visit www.fortworthgov.org/dem for collection dates and locations, or call (817) 392-6268. Crud Cruiser events are on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Occasionally, weather conditions force a cancellation.

What should I do with materials the Environmental Collection Center or “Crud Cruiser” will not accept?

For instructions on how to dispose of many kinds of waste and other items, visit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/nav/consumer_info.html

A few things about Code Ranger program and Graffiti Abatement

What is the Code Rangers program?

The Code Rangers program is a neighborhood involvement initiative that recruits and trains volunteers to identify and report code violations to the Code Compliance Department. Once a report is received, Code Compliance sends a courtesy notice to the property where the violation occurred. Property owners or residents then have 10 days to voluntarily correct the violation. After 10 days, volunteer Code Rangers re-inspect the property to see if the violation still exists. If it has been corrected and the complaint is closed, property owners receive a thank you note. If the violation remains, Code Rangers report findings to the city's Code Compliance Department, and an official case is opened.

Neighborhood Maintenance

To report:

- * Substandard homes
- * Vacant and open buildings
- * Vehicles parked on grass
- * Junk vehicles
- * Hazardous piles of garbage and debris
- * Garbage not in container
- * Items stored on porch
- * Weeds/grass over 12 inches tall
- * Broken fences adjacent to thoroughfares
- * Insufficient private pool barrier
- * Stagnant pools of water
- * Illegal dumping

Contact:

Code Compliance
715 Texas St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 392-1234

Satellite Paint Bank

920 Woodward Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 212-2700

Graffiti Abatement

(817) 212-2700

Billboard Rules

Development Department
(817) 392-7851

Sign Permits

Development Department
(817) 392-2222

Brownfields

Environmental Management Department
(817) 392-6088

New rangers patrol their neighborhoods at their leisure, watching for the following five to 10 specific code violations:

- Out of cycle bulky waste

- Contaminated bulky waste
- Trash carts
- Garbage overflowing
- Garbage stored outside of a cart
- Accumulation of garbage and debris
- Broken fences
- Front yard parking
- Garage sales without permits
- Outdoor storage of broken or discarded items

Potential fines, depending on the violation, could run from \$200 to \$2,000. Rangers also observe and report other code violations, but only the five to 10 specific violations mentioned above are part of the courtesy letter process. The goal of the program is to increase voluntary compliance without involving Code Enforcement Officers, allowing officers to spend extra time on more detailed code enforcement cases like zoning and high grass and weeds.

For more information about the Code Rangers program, call 817-392-6573.

What is illegal dumping?

Have you ever thrown your household garbage onto a vacant lot, along the road, in a retail dumpster or a ditch? If you answered “yes” to this question, you have dumped your garbage illegally.

Where can I dispose of my garbage?

Residential curbside service provided by the city, City of Fort Worth’s Drop-Off Stations or a legally authorized landfill.

Who do I call to report illegal dumping?

Code Compliance at (817) 392-1234

In addition to filing a complaint, are there other ways I can help prevent illegal dumping?

Yes, you can require contractors you employ to produce receipts from local landfills before you pay for their services. This assures that debris is being hauled to a proper disposal site.

Graffiti

Why should I care about graffiti?

Not only is graffiti unattractive, it lowers property values and encourages other types of neighborhood crime. By removing graffiti promptly, residents can send a message to the people responsible for graffiti. Property owners can also be fined if graffiti is not removed within 14 days.

How do I report graffiti?

Phone any of the following city services:

- Graffiti Abatement Program – (817) 212-2700
- Police – (817) 335-4222
- Code Compliance – (817) 392-1234

How can I remove graffiti from my property?

Property owners are required to remove graffiti within 14 days. If you need assistance, call one of these numbers:

- Graffiti Abatement Program – (817) 212-2700
- Parks and Community Services – (817) 871-5741

What is the Graffiti Abatement Program?

This program provides three basic services:

- Owners or residents of vandalized property may receive up to five gallons of free paint every three months to eliminate graffiti on their property from the Paint Bank.
- The Graffiti Patrol paints over graffiti, sandblasts and paints murals to help control graffiti on public property.

- A contractor paints over graffiti by painting to match or pressure washing/sandblasting on private or commercial property. This free program requires written permission to abate the graffiti from the property owner or renter.

How do I get free paint to cover graffiti?

If your property has been vandalized, go to the Satellite Paint Bank located near downtown at 920 Woodward Ave. The Paint Bank is open Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Please call (817) 212-2700 ahead of time and make an appointment.

To get free paint, bring:

- Pictures of the graffiti
- A photo ID
- Proof of ownership or residency at the property such as a recent water bill or tax statement

Who is eligible to receive free paint to cover graffiti?

Free paint is available for residences, as well as commercial properties.

How can I help?

You may volunteer to help at the Satellite Paint Bank or the Graffiti Patrol. Call the Graffiti Volunteer Coordinator at (817) 212-2700 or the Parks and Community Services Volunteer Coordinator at (817) 871-5778