

What can I do with my yard waste?

Options at home and for collection



LOUISVILLE METRO PUBLIC WORKS & ASSETS DEPARTMENT
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION
600 MERIWETHER AVENUE LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40217 502.574.2775

Campaign Recap:

September-December:

- Performed in person outreach through distribution of paper bags, presentations, articles in newsletters, meetings with stakeholders, media interviews, etc.

January-March:

- Continued messaging/brief pause outreach campaign during winter.

January:

- End soft launch. Waste haulers cease picking up non-compostable plastic bags containing yard waste.

April:

- Begin reinforcement messaging and outreach through presentations, articles, media interviews, distribution of bags, Mayors Press Release, etc.

Current Messaging:

- Citizen Guides/FAQs (Complete)
- Information packets to retail outlets-3rd Round (Complete)
- Newsletters (Ongoing)
- E-blasts (first week of April)
- TV/radio interviews (Ongoing)
- Stickers (Ongoing)
- Presentations (Ongoing)
- Information packets to landscape service providers (Complete)

Campaign Focus:

Love ‘em and Leave ‘em Louisville

“**LELE**” is the practice of utilizing the waste your yard generates to fertilize and make your yard healthier.

Changes to yard waste collection

Best Management Practices (BMP’s) for collecting and setting out yard waste for collection

LELE started in 2010 by a group of volunteers in New York with a vision to reduce organic yard waste.

The initiative has expanded to many areas nationwide and currently offers information to homeowners, landscapers, and municipalities.

www.lelelouisville.com

It's really pretty simple... and free

LOVE 'EM AND LEAVE 'EM LOUISVILLE HELPFUL HINTS FOR HANDLING YARD WASTE AT HOME

LEAF MULCH AND GRASS CLIPPINGS OFFER A NUMBER OF BENEFITS FOR YOUR LAWN! Love the beauty of leaves and grass, then leave the clippings where they fall.

- Provides a natural fertilizer for a greener, healthier lawn
- Improves soil structure providing better drainage, better water retention, and fewer weeds

*RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A HEALTHIER, GREENER LAWN:

SET YOUR MOWER ON MAXIMUM HEIGHT! The higher you mow your grass, the healthier it will be. The roots will be deeper, allowing your lawn to stay green with less water. Deep roots also prevent soil erosion and promote thicker grass growth. Taller grass helps stop weeds from growing by creating more shade to prevent weed germination. Follow the one-third rule: never cut more than one-third of the total height of the grass when you mow. Your lawn will thank you for it!

OR EVEN BETTER...GROW MORE, MOW LESS! If you feel like mowing your lawn is a constant battle, try replacing your turf-grass with plants you don't have to mow. Low-mow landscaping can save you time, money, and hassle. There are lots of options to choose from, such as trees, shrubs, flowers, groundcover, edible plants, and even low-mow grasses. For more low-mow tips, visit: www.louisvilleky.gov/APCD/growmore.

DON'T BAG THOSE CLIPPINGS! A common misconception is that clippings left on the lawn will promote thatch buildup. This is not true. Clippings do not make significant contributions to thatch and should be returned to the lawn whenever possible. Leaves and grass contain mostly water and break down rapidly, releasing nutrients back into the soil.

MULCH LEAVES INTO YOUR LAWN! Mowing tree leaves in the autumn and returning them to the turf system is an outstanding alternative to raking and bagging. Studies have shown the positive effects of mowing tree leaves into lawns. To do this, take the grass catcher off your mower and mow over the leaves on your lawn. You want to reduce your leaves to dime-size pieces. You'll know you're done when about half an inch of grass can be seen through the mulched leaf layer.

AND ONE LAST TIP! Before mowing your lawn, trim your shrubs and clean your flower beds and landscaping. Place the trimmings on your lawn and cut your grass like normal. You may need to do a couple of passes over the extra materials, but when complete, you will never know they were there. Plus, you saved time and money by not bagging. To avoid hazards while mowing, make sure trimmings are



AS MOWING HEIGHT DECREASES,
DEPTH OF ROOTING DECREASES
AND MAINTENANCE INCREASES.



What are my options if I choose to have my yard waste collected?

- **Best:** Reusable container
- **Next best:** Paper yard waste bag
- **Still good:** Compostable bag



CHANGES TO YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Regular Plastic Bags Not Allowed After January 1

IN MAY 2014, THE LOUISVILLE - JEFFERSON COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ADOPTED A YARD WASTE CONTAINER REGULATION (51.507R) CLARIFYING COLLECTION PROCEDURES. RESIDENTS WHO UTILIZE YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES MUST USE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CONTAINERS: REUSABLE BIN, PAPER YARD WASTE BAG, OR COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC BAG MEETING ASTM D6400 STANDARDS.

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS YARD WASTE? Yard waste includes organic waste generated during regular household landscaping and gardening activities. Rocks, dirt, gravel, flower pots, and pot liners are not considered yard waste.



ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES TO SETTING OUT YARD WASTE FOR COLLECTION? Yes. Mulching and/or composting at home are often the fastest and cheapest ways to manage your yard waste.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS IF I NEED TO HAVE MY YARD WASTE COLLECTED?

Best: Reusable containers are often cheaper than using single-use bags in the long run. Bins should have sturdy handles for collection crews, a capacity between 20 and 40 gallons, weigh no more than 60 pounds when filled, and be covered with a secure lid.

Next Best: Paper yard waste bags that are not over filled and are folded closed.

Still Good: Compostable plastic bags should clearly state they meet ASTM D 6400 standards for composting. Bags marked "biodegradable" do not meet the requirement for this regulation. The compostable bags should be securely tied.

WHY IS USING COMPOSTABLE BAGS IMPORTANT? After your yard waste is collected, it is delivered to a compost facility. Regular plastic bags are not compostable and must be separated from the yard waste. Removing plastic bags increases processing costs and remaining shreds reduce demand for the compost. Compostable bags or reusable containers greatly reduce the amount of plastic sent to local compost facilities. This reduces processing costs and enhances the quality of the finished compost.

CAN I STILL BUNDLE MY BRANCHES? Yes.

DOES THIS AFFECT MY REGULAR GARBAGE COLLECTION? No, this change only impacts yard waste collection.

ACCEPTABLE CONTAINERS



REUSABLE BINS



PAPER BAGS





Reusable Container & Bundling:



Best and least expensive option

- Should have sturdy handles
- Capacity between 20-40 gallons
- Weigh no more than 60 pounds
- Be covered with a secure lid

Requirements:

- No longer than 4' long
- No greater than 2" diameter
- Must be tied
- Weigh no more than 60 pounds

Paper Yard Waste Bags:

- More durable than conventional bags
- Tops folded closed, not stapled or taped
- Will withstand rain events, if closed





Each product will display the labeling language via printing, embossing, or compostable adhesive stickers and using, when possible, the color green or brown that contrasts with background product color for easy identification.

Compostable Bags:

- Must be labeled “compostable”
- Biodegradable does not always mean compostable
- Should be securely tied

Check to see if a product is compostable by going to Biodegradable Products Institute
<http://products.bpiworld.org/>

In store availability is very sparse. Working with retailers and manufactures to improve. Online availability is good.

Seasonal Drop-off Locations:

- Great idea if you have a large amount
- Reduce volume by chopping or shredding first

10500 Lower River Road
(corner of Bethany Lane)
Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

East District Public Works Yard
595 Hubbards Lane
Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Waste Reduction Center
636 Meriwether Avenue
Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

2014 Results: 52



Helpful Tips to Reduce Yard Waste:

Before mowing: blow or rake leaf debris and small bush trimmings from your flower beds, hard surfaces, and landscaping onto the lawn instead of bagging them. Once you have mowed they will be gone.



Mulch mow to reduce volume during peak season. Mulching leaves reduces the volume at a ratio of up to 16:1. This will result in less containers or yard waste bags needed for collection



Curbside Education

- Collectors of yard waste do not pick up yard waste that is not prepared according to regulation.
- Collectors when finding yard waste in unapproved containers (including plastic bags) place an educational sticker on the yard waste. **Note: Some private haulers have developed their own stickers**



The sticker is rectangular with a black border. It is divided into three vertical sections. The left section features a black plastic bag with a red diagonal slash over it, enclosed in a red circle. Below this is the text: "WASTE HAULERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP YARD WASTE IN PLASTIC BAGS". The middle section has a yellow background with black text: "EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015", "YARD WASTE MUST BE PLACED OUT IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS, PAPER YARD WASTE BAGS, OR COMPOSTIBLE BAGS", "(YARD WASTE MAY ALSO BE BUNDLED AND TIED)", "FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LOUISVILLEKY.GOV/GOVERNMENT/PUBLICWORKS", and "OR CALL METROCALL AT 311 (574-5000)". The right section is labeled "ACCEPTABLE CONTAINERS" vertically and shows three examples: a black plastic bin, a brown paper bag, and a green compostible bag.

WASTE HAULERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP YARD WASTE IN PLASTIC BAGS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

YARD WASTE MUST BE PLACED OUT IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS, PAPER YARD WASTE BAGS, OR COMPOSTIBLE BAGS

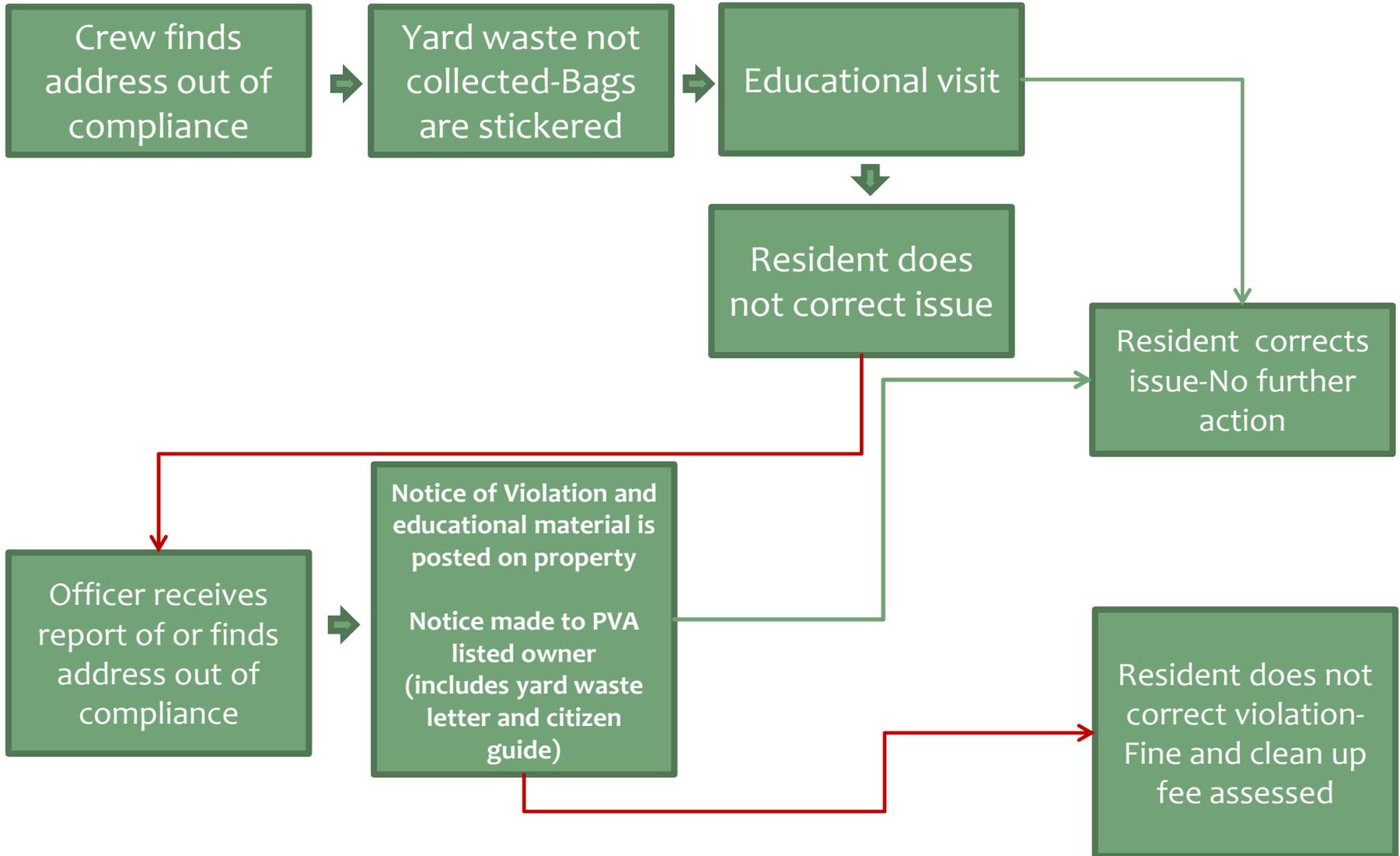
(YARD WASTE MAY ALSO BE BUNDLED AND TIED)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.LOUISVILLEKY.GOV/GOVERNMENT/PUBLICWORKS
OR CALL METROCALL AT 311 (574-5000)

ACCEPTABLE CONTAINERS

- Anyone can notify enforcement if the resident continues to leave the plastic bags at the curb

Education and Enforcement Process



Enforcement:

Violation: Containers for the collection of yard waste shall meet the requirements of LMCO Chapter 51.507. As an alternative yard waste may be set out in paper yard waste bags or certified compostable bags meeting ASTM D6400 standards.



Penalty: 51.999 (B) Any person who violates 51.405, 51.500, 51.504, 51.505, 51.506, 51.507 (A)(2) through (A)(6), 51.508, 51.509 and/or who fails to perform any of the duties imposed by these sections, or who violates any determination, permit, administrative regulation, or order of the Waste Management District or the Department promulgated pursuant thereto shall be liable for a civil penalty of not less than \$50 per day or per occurrence, and not more than \$2,500 per day or per occurrence. Each day upon which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation. For a first offense within a two year period, a specific fine of \$50 per day will be imposed for each offense if the person who has committed the offense does not contest the citation. For each subsequent offense committed within a two year period from the date of payment or conviction on the first offense, a specific civil fine of \$100 per day will be imposed for each offense if the person who has committed the offense does not contest the citation.

Process: Reported>Inspected>Violation
Notification>Correction Period>Citation/Removal

The Louisville Metro Curbside Collection System

Waste disposal is an essential public health service for all communities and Louisville Metro is no exception. Proper handling of waste prevents disease and improves community pride through nuisance reduction and increases property values.

Regardless of where you live certain rules have been adopted to ensure a clean and efficient collection system.

Curbside Collection Vehicles

Automated
Waste Collection
Vehicle



Semi-automated
Collection
Vehicle



Container Specifications

Size and Weight

Hand Tipping

No more than 40 gallons
and less than 60 pounds

Lifting handles to
prevent contact with
contents

Lids to keep animals and
rain out and litter in.

Mechanical Tipping

Up to 95 gallons and weight
and less than 200 pounds

Balanced for easy
movement with wheels and
handles

Lids to keep animals and
rain out and litter in.

When

No earlier than 4:00 PM on the day before collection and no later than 6:00 AM on collection day

Removed from the street or alley no later than 4:00 PM the day after

How

Open end toward street

Within 3 feet of the curb or alley

3 feet away from other objects and containers

All waste contained inside with lid closed

What

Depends on where it is going

- Landfill
- Recycling
- Composting

Never put these items in any curbside container!!

Household hazardous waste

Tires

Electronics

Embers



Household Hazardous Materials HAZ-BIN

Provides a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted household hazardous materials which are not accepted by household waste collection or recycling centers

Acceptable Items

Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides
Lawn/garden chemicals
Driveway sealers
Kerosene
Mildew remover's
Fluorescent light bulbs
Nail polish and removers
Furniture polishes and waxes
Oven and drain cleaners
Automotive fluids
Varnishes and stains
Oil based paint or lead paint
Cleaners- bathroom, rug, upholstery,
all-purpose spot removers

Fertilizers
Swimming pool chemicals
Gasoline, including gas/oil mix
Solvents and degreasers
Asbestos floor tiles
Mercury thermometers and thermostats
Mothballs
Metal polishes and rust removers
Batteries- auto, household, hearing aid/watch
Mineral spirits/turpentine
Wood preservatives
Propane tanks (1 lb. to 20 lb. grill tanks)

7501 Grade Lane
Wednesday and Saturday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Unstaffed Recycling Centers

Metro Fire Company

3228 River Park Drive

Metro Fire Company

1500 South 6th Street

Metro Fire Company

235 East Jefferson Street

Metro Fire Company

2620 Frankfort Avenue

Middletown Firehouse

108 Urton Lane

Metro Fire Company

4535 Manslick Road

Beechmont Community Center

205 W. Wellington Avenue

Sun Valley Community Center

6505 Bethany Lane

Metro Parks Maintenance

1297 Trevilian Way

Bowman Field License Branch

3501 Roger E. Schupp Street

Metro Fire Company

2900 Hikes Lane

Fern Creek Firehouse

7700 Routt Road

E. P. Tom Sawyer Park

3000 Freys Hill Road

Fairdale Volunteer Fire

Department

10015 Mitchell Hill Rd

Acceptable Materials

Mixed paper

Cardboard

Containers

Staffed Recycling Centers

Public Works Yard

595 N. Hubbards Lane

Metro Parks

9300 Whipps Mill Road

Government Center

7219 Dixie Highway

Government Center

7201 Outer Loop

Acceptable Items

Mixed paper

Cardboard

Containers

Antifreeze - Up to 5 gallons

Motor Oil - Up to 5 gallons

Oil Filters

Inkjet and Laser Toner Cartridges

DVDs and CDs

Floppy Disks

Cooking Oil

Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

For more information:



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
A Division of Develop Louisville

How you access waste collection services will be dependent on the type of and where your property is located.

Service Area	Affecting	Services
Urban Services District	Residential properties having 8 or less units, condominiums, and small business generating 6 or less 95 gallon containers of trash per week.	Garbage collection
		Recycling collection
		Yard waste collection
		Junk collection
All Louisville Metro	Services provided to all Louisville Metro	Street sweeping
		Litter removal
		Junk drop-off
		Household hazardous materials
		Recycling drop off
Seasonal special collection events		
Unincorporated areas, Small Cities, and urban services district large business and apartments with 9 or more units	Garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection	Services dependent of location
Special Services	County Wide	Enforcement and Licensing
		Education and outreach