

# **Hamblen County Highway Department**

## **Household Refuse/Trash, Recycle and Bulk Waste Disposal Information**

In effort to work more efficiently and be a good steward of the taxpayer's monies, the Hamblen County Highway Department is converting our trash collection equipment to automated side loading garbage collection trucks. This conversion process will be over a period of time as budgets allow. As a result, we will be rerouting collection days countywide. New routes will be published, and all collection cans will be required to be at the roadside for pickup. Drivers will no longer be able to physically handle cans.

### **General Information/Schedule**

Household garbage collection will occur on a weekly scheduled route for the residents of Hamblen County.

Recycle collection will occur once every two weeks and on a scheduled route. This route will be published annually.

Bulk waste and brush collection will occur on a continuous schedule; these trucks are on an East/West route and the schedule will vary based on the volume of bulk waste collected.

Holiday collection schedules will be published in the local newspaper, on the county's website and social media.

All collection containers shall be in place at a county roadway no later than 6:00am on the scheduled pick-up day.

### **Household Refuse/Trash Storage and Collection Policy**

The mechanically operated refuse collection equipment of the county (automated side loaders) is equipped to work only with county supplied containers. The county supplied cans shall be used by all residences where trash is collected.

Collection containers shall be in place at the county roadway no later than 6:00am on the scheduled pick-up day and removed the same day.

With the use of automated side loading equipment, placement of the can is critical. Leave at least 4 feet between your cart and other obstructions. Cans shall be placed with the handle facing the house. Can should be placed at edge of curb, in driveway, or within 2 feet of the edge of the roadway.

No garbage/refuse will be collected that is not in a can and within reach of the automated loader. Do not overfill the can. Lid should be able to close. No garbage sitting next to can will be collected. Each can shall not weigh more than 50 pounds when full.

One can (1) shall be furnished to the homeowner at no charge and that can is the property of the county. One additional can may be purchased (two cans max per residence) and those cans will be the property of the homeowner and will not be replaced/repared without an additional charge.

Mobile home parks must have a central location at the county roadway for pickup. Generally, one can per residence will be provided and those cans must be purchased by the park owner. Rental unit cans must be purchased by the landlord or occupant.

County supplied cans that are damaged through no fault of the county will not be replaced without a charge. The county is herein authorized to confiscate and/or remove unapproved storage containers from the premises of residences and establishments, both public and private, when at the discretion of the department, such containers are not suitable for the healthful and sanitary storage of refuse. Such unsatisfactory containers shall be removed and disposed of in a manner designated by the county only after the owners of such containers have been duly notified of such impending action.

### **Recycle Collection Policy**

Recycle collection will occur once every two weeks on a designated scheduled route.

The county does not provide recycling cans. Recycle trash shall be placed in a Blue Recycle Can (purchased by owner) or trash bags clearly marked with a blue identification marker (blue bag) and set at the roadside for pickup on their scheduled route pickup day.

Cardboard should be broken down and placed in cans, tied up and placed out on the day of collection. No loose or wet cardboard will be accepted.

### **Brush/Bulk Waste Collection Policy**

Do not place any brush or bulk waste in the roadway that will impede traffic, or in stormwater drainage ways. Be sure not to block access to sidewalks or other public infrastructure. Do not pile brush on public property like medians, islands, sidewalks, greenways, or other public property. Violations of the Storm Water Policy could lead to fines assessed to the homeowner.

The volume of brush/bulk waste set out by residents varies. Day-of Collection service confined our operations to a strict schedule and did not allow crews to work ahead on light brush weeks. As a result, we run a continuous schedule, and the trucks will run each road on an east/west route until they complete their scheduled pickups.

Use this simple checklist to ensure your brush/bulk waste is ready for collection:

- Bulk Waste is defined as discarded mattresses, furniture, bicycles, large outdoor toys, etc.
- Bulk waste is **NOT** bagged or loose trash, clothing or residential garbage. These items must be disposed of in the county waste container or taken to the landfill.
- All hazardous waste such as paint, lightbulbs, oils, solvents etc. will not be picked up as bulk waste. It must be disposed of properly by taking it to a hazardous waste collection area.
- Used tires of any kind will not be collected by the Hamblen County Garbage Department. They must be taken to the landfill.

- Renters, Landlords, or new home acquisitions are responsible for disposing of any materials left at the property.
- Place brush/bulk waste where equipment can reach without damaging your property (i.e. away from mailboxes, parked vehicles, utility poles/meters, landscaping, fences, etc.)
- The brush/bulk waste pile is required to be within 5 feet of the street front of property. We cannot operate outside of the right-of-way.
- Brush/bulk waste piles should not exceed 6ft x 6ft x 6ft. Brush/bulk waste must be kept separate from trash and cannot include construction or demolition materials. No stumps or branches larger than 12 inches in diameter.
- No trees or branches from contractors providing tree services - those contractors should remove materials from the owner's property. Brush piles left by contractors will not be collected and will be flagged by Codes Enforcement.

### **Bulk Waste Enforcement Process**

- Violations will be reported to Codes Enforcement by the public, sanitation crews and/or law enforcement. Please call (423) 585-2751, the Garbage Collection Hotline for Public Complaints
- Codes Enforcement will investigate the complaints, take photos and prepare written reports for the record.
- Codes Enforcement will issue a "Notice of Violation" letter to the property owner giving them 10 days to properly dispose of the waste.
- If a property owner fails to comply, Codes Enforcement will issue and serve a citation which includes a general sessions court date. Violations and penalties start the date that the citation is issued by codes enforcement officer or law enforcement. Penalties for violations start at \$50.00/day.
- Codes Enforcement will inform the property owner if the violation is corrected within 48 hours, the citation will be dismissed with the payment of court costs. If not corrected, the citations will proceed through the court system.
- The Hamblen County Attorney will represent the County in the General Sessions Court hearing.