



FAQ's - New Yard Waste Requirements and other Refuse Code Changes

Yard Waste

1. What are the new requirements for yard waste collection in Prince William County? (Bags and Containers: Sec. 22-20c); (Frequency: Sec. 22-20f); (Separation and Collection: Sec. 22-43a and 22-170a and 170b)

RESPONSE: Yard waste must be collected separately in a clearly labeled personal container or paper yard waste bags. Yard waste cannot be mixed with trash, or recyclable material. Yard waste must be picked up, at least once a week from March -December. This will begin in October 2021. Additionally, Christmas trees will be collected the first two weeks in January.

2. When do the new requirements for yard waste collection apply in the county? (Sec. 22-170a and 170b)

RESPONSE: Yard waste collection will begin October 2021.

3. Who is required to separate yard waste under the new requirements?

RESPONSE: Any person or entity that disposes of yard waste in Prince William County -- Residents, lawn care firms, and property managers (apartment, condo, and HOA, etc.).

4. How should yard waste be handled at apartments and/or condominiums? (Sec. 22-170b)

RESPONSE: The owners of apartments and condominium properties are required to establish a recycling system for the separation, collection, handling, storage and transportation of yard waste from March through December and Christmas trees during the first two weeks of January.

5. How should yard waste be handled at commercial properties?

RESPONSE: Commercial properties are required to establish a recycling system for the material comprising the greatest percentage of their waste stream (by weight or volume). If the commercial property generates mostly yard waste, then the commercial property is required to establish a recycling system for the separation, collection, handling, storage and transportation of yard waste from March through December and Christmas trees during the first two weeks of January.

6. What materials may be included with my yard waste for collection?

RESPONSE: Yard waste includes compostable waste materials generated by yard and lawn care and includes leaves, grass trimmings, brush, wood chips, and shrub and tree trimmings. Yard waste does not include roots or stumps, trunks, or branches exceeding six inches in diameter and up to four feet in length.

7. Are there limits to how much yard waste may be set out?

RESPONSE: Refuse, recycling and yard waste collection is provided by private haulers which each establish their own guidelines for preparation of materials (including set out limits). Contact



your private hauler for additional information.

8. How should the yard waste be prepared? (Bags and Containers: Sec. 22-20c)

RESPONSE: Generally, material needs to be placed in a personal can labeled "yard waste" or placed in a paper yard waste bag. Plastic bags are prohibited. In addition, you may also bundle brush and shrub and tree trimmings up to six inches in diameter and four feet in length so long as bundles do not exceed 50 pounds in weight. Contact your private hauler for additional information.

9. Are there any exemptions to the yard waste requirements?

RESPONSE: Yard waste does not include roots or stumps, trunks, or branches and shrub and tree trimmings exceeding six inches in diameter, four feet in length and 50 pounds in weight.

10. How should I label my personal yard waste container? (Sec. 22-20c)

RESPONSE: Personal yard waste containers should be labeled "Yard Waste" and the label should be clearly visible to collection crews. Yard waste decals will be available to residents free of charge at the Prince William County Landfill, Balls Ford Road Compost Facility and at the Solid Waste Division Administrative Offices located at 5 County Complex Ct. during regular business hours.

11. What if I don't have room to store an additional yard waste container?

RESPONSE: The use of personal containers is optional. Yard waste may also be placed in biodegradable paper bags which are widely available at area retail stores.

12. When will the yard waste collection begin? (Sec. 22-170a and 170b)

RESPONSE: October 2021 -Although the yard waste season will run from March through December each year, for the first year, the requirements were delayed for nine months to give trash and recycling service collection companies time to acquire equipment and staff.

13. Do I have to participate in yard waste collection?

RESPONSE: Yes, your yard waste must be collected separately from other waste (trash, recycling, etc.). However, residents can bring their separated yard waste in a personal container or paper bags to the Landfill or Balls Ford Road facility. No plastic bags.

14. Can I bring my yard waste to the Prince William County Landfill and Balls Ford Road facilities?

RESPONSE: Yes, residents can bring their yard waste to either facility, free of charge.

15. Will there be an increase cost for yard waste collection?

RESPONSE: There will be an increase in cost for collection companies, but the exact cost is unknown, at this time, and will be determined by the collection companies.

16. Is there a fine or other punishment for not using paper bags or personal containers labeled "Yard Waste?"

RESPONSE: Violations of Article II (Storage) requirements may be subject to a civil penalty not



to exceed \$50.00. Each business day during which the same violation is found to have existed shall constitute a separate offense. Three civil penalties imposed on the same offender for the same or similar violation with a 24-month period shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor.

17. What, if any, penalties are there for failing to separate yard waste from normal trash? (Sec. 22-171)

RESPONSE: Any resident who violates the material separation requirements will receive a notice of violation and shall have 14 days to correct the violation. Failure to comply with a written notice could lead to a fine of \$25.00 for each willful refusal or failure to comply. Any hauler or property manager that violates the requirements would be subject to notice of violation with 30 days to correct the issue. Hauler or property managers that do not comply with a written notice within 30 days are subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00, nor more than \$500.00 for each willful refusal or failure to comply. In addition, violations to Article III (Commercial Removers Generally) and Article VII (Recycling) will subject permit holder to suspension or revocation of permit in accordance with regulations adopted by the Department of Public Works.

18. How will the yard waste program be enforced? (Sec. 22-3) (Sec. 22-4)

RESPONSE: The County monitors complaints and will take progressive steps with residents and/or private collectors, as necessary, to enforce the County's yard waste requirements.

19. Can a collection company get an extension beyond October 1, 2020, if equipment delivery is delayed?

RESPONSE: The County is not currently considering any extensions. The start date is October 1, 2021.

20. How often will yard waste, recycling and trash be picked up? (Sec. 22-20f)

RESPONSE: Trash and recycling are required be picked up weekly year-round. Yard waste is required to be picked up weekly March through December. In addition, Christmas trees are required to be collected during the first two weeks of January.

21. Does yard waste have to be in paper bags, are there other options? (Sec. 22-20c)

RESPONSE: Yard waste can be placed in biodegradable yard waste bags or clearly labeled personal containers. Twigs and small sticks can be bundled and tied.

22. Will there be a place for haulers to dispose of yard waste collections at Landfill in addition to the Balls Ford Road Compost Facility?

RESPONSE: Permitted waste collectors may only deliver yard waste and Christmas trees (during the first two weeks of January) to the Balls Ford Road Compost Facility.

23. What will be collected in the yard waste program? (Sec. 22-170a)

RESPONSE: Yard Waste Definition - Yard Waste shall mean compostable waste materials generated by yard and lawn care and includes leaves, grass trimmings, brush, wood chips, and shrub and tree trimmings. Yard waste shall not include roots or stumps, trunks, or branches



exceeding six inches in diameter, four feet in length and 50 pounds in weight.

Recycling and Trash

24. Can I place cardboard beside my bin, if it is too big or takes up too much room? (Sec 22-19b)

RESPONSE: Flatten all cardboard and place in your recycling bin or as directed by your private hauler.

25. Is it okay to put my glass containers in the recycle bin?

RESPONSE: Glass food and beverage containers should be recycled at special "purple" drop-off bins located at the Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo Government Building, Prince William County Landfill, Balls Ford Road Compost Facility and James S. Long Regional Park. If you cannot drop-off the glass at one of these locations, it should be placed in the regular trash, so it does not "contaminate" other recycling.

26. Have plastic bags been eliminated from recycling collection? (Sec. 22-20b)

RESPONSE: Plastic shopping bags have never been accepted with recycling. They are a contaminant at recycling facilities, compost facilities and are a major source of litter at the Prince William County Landfill. Also, recyclable materials should not be placed in plastic bags for collection.

27. Why did you eliminate twice a week regular garbage collection? (Sec. 22-20f)

RESPONSE: The County revised the minimum collection frequencies for residents which now include once a week collection for trash, recycling and seasonal collection of yard waste (March through December plus Christmas trees during the first two weeks of January). These are minimum standards, but private haulers are not prohibited from making more frequent collections.

28. How do you dispose of medical sharps/needles properly? (Sec. 22-19e)

RESPONSE: Sharps generated in households may be disposed of in a heavy plastic bottle with a tight-fitting screw cap bottle, such as laundry detergent bottles, that are labeled "do not recycle." Sharps shall not be placed loosely in household trash and sharps in red "biohazard" containers shall not be disposed of in household trash. There is a special location for disposal at the Landfill.

Apartment and Business

29. What items will apartments have to provide containers for recycling? (Sec 22-170b)

RESPONSE: The owners of apartments and condominium properties are required to establish a recycling system for the separation, collection, handling, storage, and transportation of newspapers, cardboard, mixed paper, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, jugs and jars, and metal food and beverage cans (aluminum, steel, tin, etc.).



30. When does apartment management begin an education program and what should be included? (Sec 22-172a-h)

RESPONSE: The property owner, business owner, or managing agent of an apartment or condominium property should notify tenants and employees within ten (10) days of arrival, and no less frequently than annually thereafter. Such notification should be in writing and include material separation requirements, how to prepare materials for recycling, set out requirements (if any), location of recycling container(s), information regarding common contaminants, collection schedule for recycling, and a name and telephone number where tenants or employees can call with questions.

31. How should apartments and businesses handle fluorescent lamps and other universal waste items? (Sec 22-170d) (Sec. 22-19d)

RESPONSE: The owners or managers of non-residential properties shall establish a system for the separation, collection, handling, storage, and transportation of Universal Wastes (fluorescent lamps, batteries, and mercury switches) and shall make the proper arrangements for the recycling of these materials. Information on the proper recycling of Universal Waste is available at <https://www.knowtoxics.com/>

32. Can I bring the fluorescent bulbs and batteries from my business to the landfill's HHW program? (Sec. 22-170d) (Sec. 22-19d)

RESPONSE: No—businesses are responsible for managing their own Universal Waste (batteries, pesticides, Mercury-containing equipment, fluorescent lamps, and aerosol cans). This is a Federal requirement under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in part 273. Information on the proper recycling of Universal Waste is available at <https://www.knowtoxics.com/>

33. What is the principal recyclable material for my business? (Sec 22-2)

RESPONSE: Principal recyclable material shall mean paper, metal, plastic, glass, commingled materials, yard waste, wood, textiles, tires, used oil, used oil filters, used antifreeze, batteries, electronics, or material as may be approved by the Director. Commingled materials refers to single stream collections of recyclables where sorting is done at a materials recovery facility (e.g., paper, metal cans, plastic bottles, etc.). For additional guidance on recycling at work in Prince William County, please visit <https://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/publicworks/trash/Pages/Recycling-at-Work.aspx>

34. Does my business have to have 25% recycling bin volume? (Sec. 22-20d) (Sec. 22-20f)

RESPONSE: Yes, to ensure that there is sufficient capacity for recyclable materials generated from the property, recycling collection volume must be at least 25% of regular trash collection volume and recycling containers must be emptied at least once a week, or as necessary to prevent overflowing, or other nuisances caused by prolonged containment on site.



35. Who must file a recycling report in 2021 and what is the deadline for filing? (Sec. 22-169a)

RESPONSE: All nonresidential solid waste generators (business, both retail and wholesale, including apartments with more than two dwelling units and a live/work unit) shall submit an annual report of their refuse, recycling, yard waste (including Christmas trees), and food waste activity to the county's department of public works by October 15 of each year. Home-based businesses in the County and businesses in the incorporated towns of Dumfries, Haymarket, Occoquan or Quantico as well as the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park do not have to file a report with the County.

36. Do haulers still have to file a special recycling report?

RESPONSE: Yes—all companies that manage solid waste or recycle materials generated within the county shall submit an annual report of their refuse, recycling, yard waste (including Christmas trees), and food waste activity to the county's department of public works by February 15 for the previous calendar year.

Solid Waste Disposal Fee

37. What is the Solid Waste Fee used for, how is it calculated and when do I pay it? (Sec. 22-186 and 187)

RESPONSE: The Solid Waste Disposal Fee funds trash disposal, composting and recycling operations, as well as repay the debt incurred to purchase land to expand the landfill. The Board implemented the fee on January 1, 1999. The Solid Waste Fee appears as a separate line item on the real estate property tax bill and is based on the type of dwelling or business. The fee is divided in half between the June and November tax bills.