

What Happens After I Take Out the Trash?

So, what happens on collection day? Public Works Waste Management collects your discards, and takes great pride in providing environmentally responsible, reliable and cost-effective service.

In a single collection day, more than 30,000 residents, or one-quarter of the city, are served. Services include automated collection, curbside yard debris collection, container rental and bulk item collection. More than 100 skilled operators use about 70 trucks to provide the full range of services.

Most of the routine household discards in black containers are collected through automation. Equipment that is mechanized and highly efficient is used so each operator can service about 1,000 households a day.

Different tools are used to perform different jobs. Yard debris is manually loaded because the volume and type of material makes it difficult to collect with mechanical equipment. Each year crews collect more than 37,000 tons of leaves, grass and piles of pruning debris.

Some residents find that they have such a high volume of yard debris that renting a container from the city is more effective and efficient.

What about large items like couches and refrigerators? The right tool for this job is a boom truck. A vehicle with a claw-like device specifically designed to load large items like furniture and appliances. The city receives 115,000 requests a year for bulk item collection. These valuable services require significant resources and costs. The new Solid Waste Collection fee will help to offset some of these expenses. Whether you are receiving automated, bulk item, curbside yard debris collection, container rental or recycling container collection, Public Works Waste Management is there to serve you.

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