

Refuse & Recycling Guidelines for the City of Watertown

www.watertown-ny.gov

The City of Watertown provides curbside pickup of refuse (weekly) and recyclables (bi-weekly) for residents purchasing City of Watertown Blue Refuse Stickers or renting a City of Watertown Refuse tote. Recycling is mandatory and all participants must follow the guidelines below.

Contact Information – Department of Public Works

Phone (315)-785-7842

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

publicworks@watertown-ny.gov

Curbside Assistance

If you are unable to take your refuse and recyclables to the curb due to a physical limitation you may complete a Curbside Assistance Form found through this form.

<https://www.watertown-ny.gov/media/PublicWorks/medformcurbside.PDF> Send this information to: Department of Public Works, 557 Newell Street, Watertown NY 13601 or FAX at 315-782-0293.

Holiday Collection

Regular Trash & Recycling dates, which either coincide with, or follow an observed holiday will be picked up one day later than normal within the same week.

Observed Holidays:

New Years Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day



Pickup Schedule

To determine your pickup day and recycling week please refer to our Refuse Pickup Schedule Map and find your street name with the provided links or the Recycling Calendar:

<https://www.watertown-ny.gov/departments/PublicWorks/Refuse/RecyclePick-UpSchedule>
<https://www.watertownny.gov/media/PublicWorks/2024%20Recycle%20Calendar.pdf>



January 2025



Refuse Sticker & Tote Guidelines

Refuse Collection is weekly
Between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.
**All bags/ totes must be placed in margin
area by 7:00am**

Collectables: (what the city will pick up)
Refuse consists mainly of all non-
recyclable household items and food.
**REFUSE WILL BE REJECTED IF IT
CONTAINS RECYCLEABLE ITEMS!**

Blue Sticker Refuse Pick up

The sticker program allows you to
participate with the city refuse collection
on an “as needed, pay as you throw” basis.

The proper stickers are blue and have
“CITY OF WATERTOWN” inscribed on them.
Each sticker covers a single garbage bag
with a 40 lb. maximum weight limit and a
maximum size of 32 gallons. **No contractor
bags.**

**Stickers must be placed around the neck
of bag and be visible.**

Stickers are available for purchase at
select retailers. Please find locations at:
[https://www.watertown-
ny.gov/departments/PublicWorks/RefuseR
ecycling](https://www.watertown-ny.gov/departments/PublicWorks/RefuseRecycling)



**REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR
REFUSE & RECYCLABLES
SEPARATE!**

Trash Tote Pick Up

(Pre-Paid on a quarterly basis)

1. All trash in a tote must be in plastic bags
2. The tote must be placed at the curb with its top open no more than six (6) inches. Any bag (s) in excess of this should be set next to the tote with a City blue sticker attached (1 sticker per bag) or the extra bag(s) will not be picked up
3. No water shall be in the trash tote
4. No hazardous or dangerous materials shall be placed in the tote.

*All collections are subject to rejection
based on these criteria.*

*Residents must maintain full
accessibility to refuse during winter
months.*

*If you require Curbside Assistance, please
maintain a 36" access walkway for crews
to obtain refuse.*

Questions?? Call (315) 785-7842



Recycling Guidelines

"No recycling services will be provided to any City resident who does not participate in the municipal refuse collection services as provided at § 161-22 of the City of Watertown Code [Added 3-18-2002 by L.L. No. 5-2002]"

Recycle Collection is bi-weekly
Between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.
All containers must be placed in margin area by 7:00am

Collection Schedule: Every other week
Depending on your location (follow the schedule) <https://www.watertown-ny.gov/departments/PublicWorks/Refuse/RecyclePick-UpSchedule>

Suitable Recycling Containers

Any durable, weatherproof, container, can, pail, or bucket capable of holding separated recyclables that does not exceed 20-gallon capacity.



DO NOT USE: plastic bags, paper bags, cardboard boxes, or containers with multiple compartments. One separated group per container.



Acceptable Items

Newspaper, Magazines & Mixed Paper
Corrugated Carboard
Plastic Bottles
Tin & Aluminum
Glass
Lightweight Cardboard (Pressboard)

See Preparing Recyclables Materials Reference Sheet!

All collections are subject to rejection based on these criteria

Residents must maintain full accessibility to containers during winter months.

If you require Curbside Assistance, please maintain a 36" access walkway for crews to obtain containers.

Questions?? Call (315) 785-7842



January 2025



Seasonal Guidelines

Yard Waste & Brush Collection

This collection is every other week, coinciding with Recycle pick up. Keep Yard and Brush waste **SEPARATED!**

This program is to assist in yard maintenance and is not intended for land clearing, tree/ hedge removal by private contractor. Private contractors must take yard and brush clippings.

Yard Waste Regulations

- Leaves and grass clippings must be in PAPER BAGS or hard sided container
- No bags with anything other than leaves or grass clippings
- Bags should not exceed more than 40 lbs., be split or broken open



Brush Regulations

- Brush must be placed in bundles having a max diameter of 18" and no longer than 5 feet in length
 - Each individual branch cannot exceed 4" diameter, place smaller twigs and branches in a trash can (not to exceed 32 gallons)
 - Place Smaller twigs and branches in a trash can (not to exceed 32 gallons)

All collections are subject to rejection based on these criteria &

Property owners much maintain full accessibility to tote during winter months, crews will not dig out buried totes

Seasonal City Bulk Item Pickup

Visit our website for upcoming service dates and Acceptable Items and Pricing List. All prices are estimates, final costs will be determined by size and weight of object. A site visit to assist in calculating final costs may be needed prior to collection. Contact Department of Public Works for additional assistance.

Do you still need to get rid of Bulk Items?

The Jefferson County's Recycling Center & Transfer Station is located at 27138 NYS Rt 12 Watertown NY 13601 Additional information can be found at <https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/RecyclingWasteManagement/transfer-station-guidelines> OR 315-786-6900




January 2025



Preparing Recyclable Materials

Please make sure all recyclables are in a suitable container, one separated group per container!

Newspaper, Magazines, and Mixed Paper	
Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office & copy paper Junk mail & envelopes Newspaper, magazines & catalogs Shredded Paper, brown paper bags Telephone Books Paperback Books (No hardcover books) 	DO NOT INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper cups, paper plates paper towels, tissues, toilet paper Diapers Hard covered books Wax paper, freezer wrap NO PLASTIC BAGS
Corrugated Cardboard	
Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrugated cardboard – must be clean and dry Remove shipping labels, tape, and staples. Must be broken down FLAT, no larger than 3'x3' and stack neatly to the curb Pizza boxes 	DO NOT INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wax, plastic, Styrofoam, or metal coatings Milk or juice cartons NO PLASTIC BAGS
Plastic Bottles	
Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic Bottles, Containers & Tubs  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty and rinsed clean. Labels and caps can stay on 	DO NOT INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS, toys, hangers, tableware, plexiglass, plastic wraps, prescription bottles Automotive oil containers Styrofoam (even with symbol)
Tin and Aluminum	
Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tin, Aluminum, and beverage cans Aluminum pans and foil Metal lids from jars Rinse clean, flatten if possible Empty Aerosol cans 	DO NOT INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silverware, hangers, paint cans, batteries, scrap metal Combined paperboard/ metal containers: examples include frozen juice concentrate
Glass	
Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass bottles and jars only Remove and discard caps and lids Rinse clean, labels can stay on Clear and colored may be mixed 	DO NOT INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows, plate glass and mirrors Dishes, drinking glasses, glassware and cookware Ceramic dishes and clay pots Light bulbs NO PLASTIC BAGS
Lightweight Cardboard (Pressboard)	
Recyclable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food, cereal, beer, or soda type boxes, paper egg cartons 	DO NOT INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO PLASTIC BAGS