

Property Maintenance Codes

Did you know...

Vehicles stored or parked outside must be currently registered, operable and parked on a paved surface.

Utility and Hauling Trailers are prohibited from being stored at all residential properties.

Permits are required for fences, driveways (new and improvement to existing) signs, building alterations, and change of use.

Contact Construction Services (815) 987-5550 for permit applications and fees before you start your project.

You may file a complaint if you believe a property to be in violation of these codes by calling Neighborhood Standards at 815-987-5566, e-mail us at NSComplaints@ci.rockford.il.us or online at www.rockfordil.gov.

City of Rockford
Community & Economic Development Department
Neighborhood Standards Division
425 E. State Street, 2nd floor
Rockford, IL 61104

815-987-5566
815-967-6933 (fax)
815-987-5718 (TDD)
www.rockfordil.gov



Excellence in Services

CITY OF ROCKFORD

Garbage & Refuse Collection

Everything You Need to Know about Rockford Sanitation

This informational brochure is provided to explain the City of Rockford's Ordinance regulating garbage/rubbish. This is also an effort to improve the environment in our city.

Community & Economic Development
Neighborhood Standards
815-987-5566
815-967-6933 (fax)
815-987-5718 (TDD)
www.rockfordil.gov



Excellence in Services

Garbage Can be a Serious Nuisance

- Poor sanitation is a general health hazard that can attract flies, mosquitoes, raccoons, rats, and other creatures that in turn can lead to the spread of disease.
- Garbage contains materials that can seep into our groundwater, streams and rivers.
- Poor sanitation is not pleasant for your neighbors to look at and takes away from the beauty of our city.

Some property owners either store items outside or plan to eventually dispose of the items. Unfortunately, accumulated garbage/rubbish affects your neighbors and poses a threat to the public.

Weekly Garbage/Refuse Pick up

Garbage pick up is scheduled between Monday and Thursday, excepting holidays. Garbage must be in a garbage can or sealed bag not weighing more than 75 pounds.

Garbage cans and/or bags should be placed at the curb or alley no earlier than 3 p.m. the night before pick up and no later than 6 a.m. the day of pick up.

All containers must be removed from the curb or alley and returned to a storing location by 8 a.m. the day following pick up.

Garbage pickup does not occur on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. A complete schedule can be found at www.rockfordil.gov.

Code and Ordinance References, cont.

Sec. 25-31. - Disposal of nonresidential refuse.

All occupants of properties to which collection is not made by the city shall dispose of their refuse by their own means at their own cost in accordance with the requirements of the city ordinances at least once each week and at more frequent intervals if the volumes or type of refuse so require.

Sec. 25-32. - Setting refuse out for collection.

(a)Point of collection. Refuse shall be set out by the property owner or occupant at the point of collection. The point of collection shall be behind the curb and within five feet of the curb for curb collection areas and behind the alley line and within five feet of the alley line or place of access to the alley collection areas.

(b)Schedule. Refuse shall be placed out for collection no earlier than 3:00 p.m. of the day preceding the collection day and not later than 6:00 a.m. of the day scheduled collection. Containers shall be returned to their original location by 8:00 a.m. of the day following the day of collection

302.1 Sanitation.

All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition and free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage. The occupant shall keep that part of the exterior property which such occupant occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition. The Code Official may order the removal of garbage, debris and rubbish/refuse in accordance with Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 65, Section 5/11-20-13. When, accumulation of garbage, debris and rubbish/refuse endangers the public health and safety or when there is actual or potential danger in the proximity of dwellings and/or the public right-of-way, the code official may cause the removal of such garbage or debris, either through an available public agency or by contract or arrangement with private persons, and the cost of such removal shall be charged against the real estate upon which the garbage and debris is located.

Code and Ordinance References

Sec. 25-24. - Practice and procedure prior to collection.

(a) Domestic garbage shall be drained of all free liquid and wrapped in several thicknesses of paper and placed in an approved container. The director of public works may refuse to have collected undrained garbage of a liquid or semiliquid nature, unwrapped or improperly contained garbage.

(b) Ashes shall be kept dry.

(c) Leaves, grass clippings, similar garden refuse, dirt and small stones shall be placed in approved containers.

(d) Bulk refuse such as cardboard boxes, crates, tree limbs and brush shall be tied in bundles not larger than four feet in length and three feet by three feet in cross section.

(e) All other refuse shall be placed in an approved container.

Sec. 25-25. - Refuse not to be collected.

The following refuse shall not be collected or disposed of by the city:

(1) Dangerous materials or substances such as poisons, acids, caustics, infected materials, explosives and radioactive material;

(2) Any material of any kind or nature, including ashes, that contain any hot, live coals or fire;

(3) Garbage or refuse from the construction, remodeling or demolition of any structure, or from any manufacturing, commercial, industrial or agricultural processes or uses;

(4) Tree limbs or stumps exceeding four inches in diameter; and

(5) Any bundle or container weighing in excess of 75 pounds.

Sec. 25-27. - Container size, construction.

Permanent containers shall be not less than five nor more than 40 gallons in capacity, watertight, with a tight fitting cover. They shall be of such shape as to be conveniently handled by one man and shall be equipped with handles or hand holds. They shall be of durable construction of materials easily kept sanitary.

Sec. 25-28. - Cleanliness, condition of containers.

Containers shall be kept clean and sanitary, in good condition at all times. Upon notice by the collector, any container in bad condition shall be removed from service. If a defective container is continued in use ten days after such notice, it shall be collected and disposed of by the city.

Sec. 25-29. - Location of containers.

Containers shall be located on the premises so as to create the least nuisance and be as inconspicuous as possible consistent with their use.

Weekly Recycling Pick up

Rockford residents are not required to recycle, however, the City encourages all residents to take advantage of the program. Each household is furnished with a blue recycling bin from Rock River Disposal. If you need a recycling bin call 815-965-2489. Aluminum and tin cans, glass jars and bottles, aerosol cans, coded plastics #1 - #7, and 6 and 12 pack rings will be accepted.

All containers should be rinsed, caps removed, and placed loosely in a bin. If you have excess recyclables, they may be placed in a paper bag and set next to the bin.

Newspapers, paper, magazines, and phone books should be placed in a paper bag and set next to the bin. Cardboard and paperboard must be flattened and bundled with string or twine, not wire. The bundles should be no larger than 4' in length or a 3'x3' cross section. These also should be set next to the recycling bin.

Recyclables will be collected on your regular garbage day.



Weekly Compost/Yard Waste Pick up

Compost/Yard Waste is recycled in spring, summer, and fall months, and will be collected on your regular garbage day. Watch for Press Releases announcing specific start and end dates. Leaves, Grass and twigs should be placed in compostable paper bags or in a 30 gallon refuse can marked with an "X," which must be visible from the street.



Sticks, twigs, brush, etc. must be bundled with string or twine, not wire. The bundles may be no longer than four feet in length, no larger than two feet in diameter and no more than 25 pounds.

Compost/Yard Waste will not be accepted if garbage is mixed in with the compost/yard waste, if placed in plastic bags, if bundled with wire, or if bundles are larger than the designated size. Twine is best used for bundling branches.

It is illegal to burn leaves. Citizens should not place loose leaves or grass clippings into the public street. Yard waste will clog the storm sewer system and cause flooding in the spring. Street Sweepers cannot handle large quantities of leaves along the curb.



Other Disposal Options

Following are some alternatives for special types of unwanted materials:

For bulk items:

Winnebago Reclamation Service Landfill, Baxter & Linden Road

- Call first, 815-874-7375
- No yard waste accepted

For yard waste:

Rock River Valley Compost, 6200 Baxter Road

- Call first, 815-874-5870
- Open 7-4:30 M-F, for large quantities of lawn refuse
- Branches can be no bigger than 6" diameter and 6' long. Anything larger must be cut up.
- \$10 for up to 400 lbs (about the size of a pickup truck load)

For metal recycling:

Check the Yellow Pages

Televisions and computers:

American TV & Appliance, 6651 E State Street

- 815-229-1400

Best Buy, 281 Dean Drive

- 815-395-8405

Computers for Schools

- Contact Jack Armstrong, 815-316-4580

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful www.knib.org

- This organization hosts a metal drive, used pharmaceuticals drive, and clothing drive

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Facilities

Rockford residents can dispose of household hazardous waste at the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Center at 3333 Kishwaukee St. (Rock River Water Reclamation District), Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. (noon) to 4 p.m., excluding holidays.

Accepted materials*:

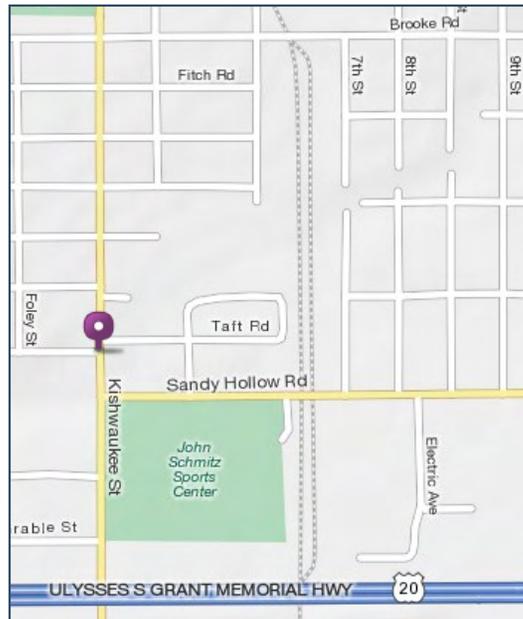
- aerosols,
- corrosives
- oxidizers
- solvents
- oil-based and latex paints
- waste oils
- pesticides
- batteries
- fluorescent lamps
- used oil
- up to 4 used tires
- and insulin disposal

Unaccepted Materials:

- radioactive waste
- compressed gas
- explosives
- 55 gal. drums

The facility is available to all residential parties and State of Illinois residents only.

*List is an overview and not comprehensive.



Weekly Bulk Item Pick up

Bulk items are household items that are too large to be placed in a garbage can or bag. Items containing freon (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.) will be accepted only if they are certified freon free by a licensed refrigeration technician.

Building and remodeling materials, automobile parts, oil, tires, liquid waste, and paint thinner will not be accepted. Bulk items will be collected each week on the same day and placed as refuse.



Reminders

- Place your garbage/bulk items out for weekly collection. Bulk items should also be stored in an inconspicuous area and NOT at the curb until the collection date. There may be a small fee for an excessive amount of bulk waste (for more information call Rock River Disposal at 965-2489).
- Refuse containers and garbage bags should be stored in a garage, shed or other inconspicuous area not visible from street until they can be properly placed at the curb for pickup.
- Rock River Disposal will not pick up tires, used motor oil, paint, construction debris, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or more than 2.5 cubic yards of trash.
- Hire a private contractor to haul off large amounts of garbage.



Hoarding

Hoarding is the excessive collection and retention of items or animals. Cleaning up a home with severe hoarding issues takes time, with slow and gradual steps for creating change. If you know someone with a hoarding problem you can contact Neighborhood Standards.

