

# GARBAGE, RECYCLE & YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES GUIDELINES

*Effective Date: January 1, 2012*

1. **NEW CUSTOMERS:** Residents that purchase a newly constructed home must contact the Department of Public Works at (302) 744-2429 to request their containers and receive their Schedule. Residents that purchase an existing home may obtain their Schedule and the “Garbage Collection & Curbside Recycling Services Guidelines” online at [www.co.kent.de.us](http://www.co.kent.de.us)
2. **COLLECTION SCHEDULE:** Garbage, Curbside Recycling and Yard Waste collection occurs **WEEKLY**, Monday through Friday, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. See Schedule for your Garbage, Curbside Recycling and Yard Waste collection day.
3. **COLLECTION TIME:** Garbage, Curbside Recycling and Yard Waste collection times will change without notice. Avoid missing your collection by rolling out containers the night before. **Kent County is not responsible for missed collections.**
4. **HOLIDAY SERVICE:** **\*\*\*\*\* WHEN IN DOUBT, ROLL IT OUT \*\*\*\*\***  
Garbage, Curbside Recycling and Yard Waste collection will **NOT** occur on New Years Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. If the holiday falls on a Monday through Friday, garbage collection will occur 1 day later. **If a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, there is no change to the schedule.**

*Example - If a holiday falls on Monday (such as Memorial Day and Labor Day), residents with a Monday collection day will receive service on Tuesday, Tuesday residents will receive service on Wednesday, Wednesday residents will receive service on Thursday, Thursday residents will receive service on Friday, and Friday residents will receive service on Saturday.*

5. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** **\*\*\*\*\* WHEN IN DOUBT, ROLL IT OUT \*\*\*\*\***  
If Garbage, Curbside Recycling or Yard Waste cannot be collected due to inclement weather, service will occur as soon as weather conditions will allow.
6. **CONTAINER PLACEMENT:** Place containers at end of driveway, with handles facing house, at least 3 feet away from any mailboxes, parked cars, utility poles and any other obstacles.
7. **RESIDENTS MUST USE THE COUNTY PROVIDED CONTAINERS ON EACH COLLECTION DAY.**

**BAGS OR BOXES OF GARBAGE OR RECYCLING LEFT OUTSIDE A CAN WILL NOT BE COLLECTED. BAGS OF YARD WASTE LEFT OUTSIDE A CAN WILL NOT BE COLLECTED. See complete Yard Waste Collection information below.**

8. **CONTAINERS:** A black garbage container and a blue recycling container are delivered to each property served by Kent County. If your District has “Yard Waste” service, a green yard waste container will also be provided. All containers are owned by Kent County, and must remain on the property. Residents may identify containers with their property address to help avoid loss or theft. **Lost or stolen containers will be replaced at the property owner’s expense.** Damaged containers should be reported to the Department of Public Works to schedule a replacement.
9. **ADDITIONAL CONTAINERS:** For larger households, a 2<sup>nd</sup> garbage container or a 2<sup>nd</sup> recycling container may be requested from the Department of Public Works. **A MAXIMUM OF 4 CONTAINERS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY THE COUNTY (including the Yard Waste container).**
10. **PERSONAL CANS:** Residents may use a 32 gallon size, personally owned can for additional garbage, recycling and/or yard waste. The weight limit of a 32 gallon can is 40 pounds. Any can size larger than 32 gallons will not be collected.
11. **CONTAINER RESTRICTIONS:** Do not overfill containers. If the lid doesn’t close, the can is overfilled and will not be collected. Overweight containers will not be collected. Overfilled cans and overweight cans cannot be safely mounted on the truck, can cause the cans to break, and can cause personal injury to the service personnel.
12. Residents are responsible for disposal of garbage, recycling or yard waste that exceeds the maximum allowed quantities due to personal events such as such as moving, holiday or family parties, spring or fall yard cleanup, etc.

## *GARBAGE & BULK ITEM SERVICE*

### 13. **GARBAGE SERVICE: BAG ALL GARBAGE. ALL BAGS MUST BE INSIDE A CAN.**

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*\* NO YARD WASTE MIXED WITH GARBAGE. GARBAGE CONTAINERS CONTAINING YARD WASTE WILL NOT BE COLLECTED. See complete Yard Waste information below.**

14. **MAXIMUM GARBAGE QUANTITY & CONTAINERS:** A maximum of **(5) garbage items** will be taken each collection day. The 1<sup>st</sup> item must always be the County provided black garbage container. The remaining 4 items may be a combination of personally owned, 32 gallon size cans or “Bulk Items”.
15. **BULK ITEMS:** A maximum of **(3) Bulk Items** will be taken each collection day and must be placed curbside for collection. A “Bulk Item” is defined as something found in a typical residence but is too large to fit inside the garbage container such as mirrors, pictures, rolls of carpet, infant / toddler toys, twin / full mattress, small furniture and small appliances. “Bulk Items” must fit into the garbage truck, must be able to be manually lifted and must be able to crush in the garbage truck (except appliances). Residents are encouraged to contact the Department of Public Works for assistance when disposing of large items. Residents are responsible for the proper disposal of any “Bulk Item” that cannot be taken by the garbage service.
16. **CARPET:** Carpet and/or padding must cut into widths of 4 feet or less, must be rolled, securely tied or taped, and be placed curbside on your scheduled collection day. Each roll is considered a “Bulk Item” and the maximum weight is 40 pounds each.
17. **APPLIANCES:** Collection of appliances such as stoves, washers, dryers and dishwashers will occur on your scheduled collection day. Each appliance is considered a “Bulk Item”.
18. **REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, AIR CONDITIONERS & DEHUMIDIFIERS:** Appliances that contain Freon require special handling. Contact the Department of Public Works for proper disposal instructions at (302) 744-2429.
19. **ELECTRONICS:** Electronic and entertainment items such as computers, laptops, printers, televisions, VCR’s and DVD’s players can be disposed of in several ways. Small items may be placed into the black trash can; larger items (such as a TV) can be disposed of as a “Bulk Item” (see Item 15 above). Electronic equipment can also be recycled. To recycle these items, residents must take them to an “Electronic Recycle Drop Off” location. For the nearest drop off location contact the DSWA at (800) 404-7080.
20. **PAINT:** Small quantities of water soluble paint (Latex) can be air dried in the can or absorbed with cat litter. The dry cans may be placed in the black garbage container for collection.
21. **RESTRICTED ITEMS:** Restricted items will not be collected. Residents are responsible for the proper disposal of restricted items at the “Sandtown Landfill”. For disposal of hazardous materials contact the DSWA at (800-404-7080) or [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com).
- \* Hazardous materials - such as gasoline, oil based paint, propane fuel tanks, pesticides, pool chemicals, oil filters & motor oil.
  - \* Automobile parts - such as tires, batteries and motor parts.
  - \* Construction materials - such as drywall, lumber, sinks, tubs, showers and toilets.
  - \* Landscaping materials - such as cinderblock, patio block, pavers, wooden or plastic deck and fence materials.

## *YARD WASTE SERVICE (April through November Only)*

**Effective January 1, 2011 the State of Delaware implemented a “Yard Waste Co-Mingling Ban” which prohibits all residents from co-mingling yard waste with household garbage or recycling.**

**Yard waste is defined as “plant material that comes from lawn maintenance and other gardening and landscaping activities. This includes grass clippings, leaves, tree branches and limbs, brush, shrubs and bushes, Christmas trees, weeds and mulch.**

22. **YARD WASTE COLLECTION:** Kent County provides “Yard Waste” service to those communities (also known as Districts) that voted to receive the service. To see if you have Yard Waste service, please refer to the Schedule. Yard Waste collection occurs on the resident’s normal garbage collection day. **Collection is weekly, starting on the Monday of the first full week of April each year and ends on the Friday of the first partial week of December.**  
**Yard Waste service starts on Monday, April 2, 2012 and ends on Friday, November 30, 2012.**
23. If your community does not receive “Yard Waste” service from Kent County, residents are responsible for the disposal of their yard waste at the “Sandtown Landfill” or other yard waste disposal location or through a private lawn service company.

**24. YARD WASTE SERVICE: DO NOT BAG YARD WASTE.**

**Yard Waste goes directly from the truck to a mulching operation and bagged yard waste cannot be mulched. ALL YARD WASTE (except bundles of branches) MUST BE INSIDE THE CAN. THE LID OF THE CAN MUST BE CLOSED OR THE CAN WILL NOT HAVE ENOUGH CLEARANCE TO TIP INTO THE TRUCK. OVERFILLED CANS WILL NOT BE TAKEN.**

25. **MAXIMUM YARD WASTE QUANTITIES & CONTAINERS:** A maximum quantity of **(5) Yard Waste Items** will be taken each collection day. The 1<sup>st</sup> item must always be the County provided green yard waste container. The remaining 4 items may be a combination of personally owned, 32 gallon size cans or bundles of branches.
26. **TREE BRANCHES (Large Quantities):** Tree branches must be (3) inches in diameter or smaller, cut to a length of 4 feet or less and must be tied into bundles. Place each bundle of branches next to the green yard waste container for collection. Each bundle of branches will be counted as 1 yard waste item (maximum of 4 bundles per collection day).
27. **CHRISTMAS TREES:** For residents receiving “Yard Waste” service, Christmas trees will be collected only during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January each year.

***RECYCLING SERVICE***

28. **RECYCLING SERVICE: DO NOT BAG RECYCLING. ALL RECYCLING MUST BE INSIDE A CAN.**
29. **MAXIMUM RECYCLING QUANTITIES & CONTAINERS:** A maximum quantity of **(5) Recycling Items** will be taken each collection day. The 1<sup>st</sup> item must always be the County provided blue recycle container. The remaining 4 items may be personally owned, 32 gallon size cans or bundles of cardboard boxes.
30. **RECYCLABLE MATERIALS:** All recyclable materials are placed into the same can; no separation of materials is needed. Labels do not need to be removed from bottles or cans. Remove all lids and bottle tops before placing items into the recycle can. (All lids, bottle tops and sprayers should be placed into trash, not recycling. Recyclable materials include:

**PAPER** - Junk Mail, Catalogs, Magazines, Newspapers, Phone Books

**PAPERBOARD** - Cereal boxes, gift boxes

**GLASS** - Clear, Brown and Green glass bottles and jars

**ALUMINUM** - Canned goods, pet foods

**PLASTICS** - Plastic containers with the numbers #1, #2, #4, #5, #7 inside the recycle symbol.

**CARDBOARD** - Corrugated boxes, shipping, moving and storage boxes

31. **CARDBOARD BOXES: FLATTEN ALL CARDBOARD BOXES AND PLACE INTO RECYCLE CONTAINER.**  
Large quantities of cardboard boxes may be flattened, tied securely into bundles and placed next to the recycle can. Large quantities of cardboard boxes may also be taken to a recycling drop off station. For the nearest location, contact Kent County.
32. **ITEMS THAT SHOULD NOT BE PUT INTO RECYCLING CAN: NO STYROFOAM OF ANY KIND**  
Anything with food residue - such as paper plates, napkins towels, pizza boxes  
Plastic Film Wrap - such as plastic newspaper wraps, and plastic wraps from TV's, small appliances and toys  
Plastic Shell Packaging - such as cake, pie, and other baked goods containers  
Other Plastics - such as plastic silverware, plastic window blinds, plastic furniture, plastic pools, plastic garden hoses, plastic infant strollers and carriers and plastic toys  
Household Glass - such as glass windows, mirrors, glass tabletops, glass baking pans and other household glass  
Aluminum Foil and aluminum foil baking pans  
Furniture - such as wooden tables, chairs, wall units, entertainment centers, dressers and bed frames  
Clothing & Textiles - such as mens, ladies, children clothing, shoes, purses, belts and coats; sheets, blankets and comforters  
These items may be taken to a “Textiles” drop off recycle location.

***OTHER INFORMATION***

**SANDTOWN LANDFILL:** The “Sandtown Landfill” is located on Route 10 West (Willow Grove Road) Sandtown, Delaware and is operated by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA). The DSWA Administration Office is located at 1128 South Bradford Street in Dover, Delaware. A separate disposal fee is charged by the landfill for disposal of any garbage. For directions to the landfill, fees and hours of operation, please contact DSWA at (800) 404-7080 or visit their website at [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com).

For any questions regarding billing or any of your Garbage, Curbside Recycling or Yard Waste services, please contact the **Kent County Department of Public Works, 555 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901. Phone (302) 744-2429 or visit our website at [www.co.kent.de.us](http://www.co.kent.de.us)**.