

Household Garbage

Garbage should be placed at the curb in sturdy covered garbage container. Please place your solid waste out after 5:00PM the night before your scheduled pick up day.

Bulk Waste (3 Bulky Items Per Week Per Household)

Bulk such as furniture, wood, mattresses, box springs, play equipment, microwave ovens, etc. must be placed at the curb on the scheduled weekly day for bulky waste pick-up. Do not place bulk waste in cardboard boxes, use plastic bags. Wood must be tied and bundled no longer than four (4) feet, and no heavier than 50lbs per bundle. Carpet must be tied and bundled no longer than four (4) feet, and no heavier than 50lbs per bundle. Each carpet bundle is considered one (1) bulk item. **No concrete, asphalt, rock, dirt, tree logs or construction material will be collected; all renovation materials must be disposed of privately.**

Mixed Paper

Mixed paper includes magazines, glossy catalogs, envelopes, coupon and color newspaper inserts, notebook paper, construction paper, white and colored paper, fax paper, and computer paper. Mixed paper must be tied and bundled, or placed in a brown paper bag at the curb along with newspaper and cardboard. Do not include other material, such as telephone books or cereal boxes.

Corrugated Cardboard

Cardboard boxes must be flattened and tied with twine in bundles not more than 12' high, not more than 25lbs per bundle. Cardboard will be collected every other week. Check your color coded calendar for recycling collection schedule.

Commingled Materials (Plastic bottles, Cans & Glass bottles)

This category consists of glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, tin cans and plastic bottles. All materials should be rinsed well, placed in a sturdy open container.

Grass & Leaf Collection

Garbage can must be 32 gallons or less or in a biodegradable bags. No plastic bags will be collected. Brush and twigs may be placed at the curb tied and bundled no longer than four (4) feet and no heavier than 50lbs per bundle.

Through Grass Collection Season: Brush is collected with grass

At the end of Grass Collection Season: Brush will be collected on your Bulk pickup day. During this period, each bundle is considered one (1) bulk item.

Special Collections (Electronics)

Drop off covered electronics (TV's desktop, faxes, copiers, VCR, keyboards & Computer Towers) at DPW or throughout the Collection Program offered by the County of Union. For information call (908) 686-1922 Monday thru Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. If you wish to dispose of a large television (must be over 50in") please contact Public Works for an appointment and assistance. **Additionally Union DPW accepts electronics 24/7 at convenience center.**

Appliances

The following items will be picked up by appointment only by calling DPW at (908) 686-1922. Washing machines, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, hot water heaters, freezers, refrigerators, cast iron and steel tubs. There will be one (1) pick up per month per household with a limit of two (2) pieces per household. Appointments will not be accepted through our recording system. You must speak directly with a receptionist and receive a confirmation number.

Household Hazardous Waste & other Liquids

- Tire Recycling
- Medication Disposal
- Smoke Detector Disposal
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tank Disposal
- Oil Based Paint
- Antifreeze
- Corrosives & Cleaners
- Thermostats
- Safe Syringe Disposal
- Used Motor Oil & Spent Filter Disposal
- Scrap Metal
- Aerosol Cans
- Caustics
- Compact Fluorescent Bulb Recycling
- Helium Tank Disposal
- Fluorescent Blubs
- Mercury Switches
- Gasoline
- Moto Oil / Oil Filters
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Pool Chemicals
- Solvents & Thinners

www.UCNJ.org/recycle

Changes in environmental laws & procedures:

Latex Plain can be disposed only when fully dry. Place kitty litter in open can or open the latex paint and soon it will dry up and become hard. Thereafter, simply place the paint and can in a double layer plastic bag and dispose with your household garbage.

Household Batteries is determined by the NJDEP that they are now safe and can be disposed in the household waste stream.

Sewer backup

There are many ways your sewer line can become blocked, but a blockage from FOG (Fats-Oils-Grease) is preventable.

FOG in the sewer system can cause:

- Raw sewage overflowing into homes. Clean up is expensive, unpleasant, and often must be paid for by homeowners.
- Raw sewage overflowing into yards, streets and parks
- Exposure to disease-causing organisms
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, bringing about higher sewer bills

What causes FOG?

A byproduct of cooking, FOG comes from meat, fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the drain, FOG sticks to the inside of sewer pipes. Over time FOG can build up, block entire pipes, and lead to serious problems. Directly pouring FOG down the drain after cooking is not the only way it gets into the sewer system, it drips off scraps that make their way into the sink and even items that are broken up by the garbage disposal can send FOG down the drain. Washing dishes (either sink or a dishwasher) can also cause FOG to get into the pipes if they are not wiped out before washing them.

- Discard all fats, oils and grease from cooking into sealable containers and discard them in the trash.
- Discard all food scraps into the trash and not down the sink, toilet, or into the garbage disposal.
- Use your sink strainer faithfully to collect “greasy” solids and empty into the trash.
- Whenever possible, avoid using your garbage disposal. Scrape solid materials to the trash for disposal.
- Avoid the use of additives that dissolve grease. This allows the grease to liquefy and pass down the sewer line causing problems in other areas.

If you take a little time to manage FOG, you will protect your home from a possible FOG blockage.

Storm water Pollution Solutions

Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents and used motor oil and other auto fluids.

Lawn Care: Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using soaker hose instead of a sprinkler, use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.

Pet Waste: When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method.

Auto Care: Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater or wash your car on your designated drop-off or recycling locations.

The Effects of Stormwater Pollution

Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.

Excess Nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.

Debris – plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts – washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

Household Hazardous Wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

**Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources.
This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.**

Importance of Permits

If you are planning to perform improvements to your property, the law states that you must secure the appropriate permits.

The Department of Public Works issues the following permits:

- **Road Opening** - Water, Gas & Electric
- **Storage Container** - On or Off Property
- **Sidewalk** - Full or Partial Slabs
- **Aprons** - Driveway
- **Curbs**

The use of permits protect the Township and the resident from fraudulent contractors who may take advantage of circumventing the specifications set by engineers. Should you have any questions or see a contractor working without permits contact the Department's Inspection Bureau at (908) 688-1922.

Blocked Driveway with Snow

Residents are granted 12 hours after the snowstorm has ended to clear their walkways and driveways from snow. You should begin clearing your sidewalk and driveway after the storm has completely cleared the area. Our plows often do a minimum of two (2) passes. The first is to clear the center of the road, so emergency vehicles can get through in an emergency and after we have completed the entire district, we will return to plow "curb-curb." The last aforementioned turn is the cause of much grief to our residents. As it is often the case the resident just completed the clearing of their property. Our plow returns to place the excess snow back onto the driveway or sidewalk. **We suggest: During the snowfall** - Do not clear the sidewalk or driveway. Do as necessary, apply the chemicals of your choice (salt or calcium chloride) to the surface to prevent from freezing and bonding to the ground. This can be done in multiple layers. **When the storm has ended** wait about 45 minutes then begin clearing your paths. This suggestion has been used and often produced successful outcomes for both the residents and the Department.

Remember - a small token of cooperation and patience will go a long way to get all of us through the winter season.

Moving cars from streets during snowstorm

During a snow event, residents have an expectation for the snow plowing service the department provides. Whenever a car is parked along the curb, our plows and salters cannot reach the curb line; therefore your street will be partially plowed. When cars finally move, mountains of snow and ice remain making pedestrian crossing and vehicle traveling hazardous. Remember our plows cannot "tuck" and curve as freely as we all would like because of their massive weight. Additionally, basketball hoop stands and other obstacles that may be placed at the curb line pose the same challenge for our men and women. Ask a neighbor, or park in their driveway, in a municipal lot nearby whenever possible.