

## Garbage — Questions & Answers

### What is the cost of garbage collection?

Each household pays a fee per year to the borough that includes both garbage collection and curbside recycling. This pro-rated charge is based on a low-bid contract awarded to the contracted hauler. Rear-yard collection for garbage and recyclables is an additional charge payable directly to the contracted hauler. See the borough's fee resolution at <http://www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-codes.html> and search for the term "trash" to find the current fee.

### What can I put in the garbage?

- All household refuse and bulky items, **with the exception of** tires, car parts, construction material, dirt, rocks and household hazardous waste (motor oil, dangerous chemicals, insecticides and paint). Paint cans must be totally empty.
- Branches no longer than 36" must be tied and bundled.
- Refrigerators (doors removed) and air conditioners must have the Freon drained by a registered plumber and be tagged as such before being placed at the curb.

### Where do I put it?

All garbage should be put in plastic bags and stored in containers of not more than 32-gallon capacity with tight fitting lids. These containers should be placed at the curb for collection with lids on.

### When/where is garbage picked up?

Weekly garbage collection for most homes is on the front curb. If your alley is paved, garbage will be collected there. Call the borough office at 412-351-7330 x 0 to obtain a street-by-street collection schedule or check the borough website at [www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html](http://www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html).

### What time can I put out the garbage?

Garbage containers must be placed at the curb no sooner than 6 p.m. the day before your scheduled pick up. Emptied cans must be removed no later than 6 p.m. on the day of pick up.

### What if my garbage isn't picked up?

In some cases, garbage collection is delayed by one day following a holiday or a heavy snowfall. In these cases, it is not necessary to call the borough office to file a report... please be patient! If you are concerned that your home or street has been overlooked, please call 412-351-7330 x 0 or check the borough website at [www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html](http://www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html) for the hauler's phone number if the office is closed.

# Recycling 101

## It's the law

Act 101 ("Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act") mandates recycling in Pennsylvania's larger municipalities. Every community with a population of more than 5,000 is required to provide curbside recycling for its residents.

The borough's code of ordinances – Chapter 20\_outlines all of the legal requirements for recycling at residences, apartment buildings, businesses, schools and institutions. A complete copy may be obtained at the borough office or check the borough website at [www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-codes.html](http://www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-codes.html).

## ... And it's a good thing

Forest Hills residents recognize the value of recycling and we have a very high participation rate for our residential program. As a result, we are doing our part to save space in landfills while conserving resources that are used to create new materials and products.

In addition, the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection gives annual recycling performance grants to municipalities by giving them rebates based upon tons of materials collected. This money goes back into the general operating budget and is used for the benefit of the community.

## What is the cost of recycling?

Each household pays an annual fee that includes both garbage collection and curbside recycling, payable to the borough. This pro-rated charge is based on a low-bid contract awarded to the contracted hauler. Rear-yard collection for garbage and recyclables is an additional fee payable directly to the contracted hauler. See the borough's fee resolution at <http://www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-codes.html> and search for the term "trash" to find the current fee.

A green recycling container has been provided to each household by the borough at no charge. Additional containers may be purchased for a fee (contact the borough office at 412-351-7330 x 0 for information).

## What can I recycle in Forest Hills?

Forest Hills accepts the following items for recycling:

- *Cans* (tin, aluminum & bi-metal)
- *Glass bottles and jars* (clear & colored)
- *Plastics* (#1 PET & #2 HDPE)

All of the above items may be co-mingled in your green recycling container. In addition:

- *Black and white newsprint* may be tied up with string or put into brown paper bags and left at curbside.

### **Recycling dos and don'ts:**

- DO rinse out all cans, jars and plastic containers, especially those containing food. Take off all lids and caps and throw them in the garbage. You don't have to remove labels.
- DON'T recycle bags, cups, Styrofoam trays or clear acrylic containers that are easily bent or broken.
- DON'T recycle any container that held chemicals, motor oil or insecticides.
- DON'T put recyclables in plastic or paper bags. Keep them loose in the green plastic containers for pick-up.

### **When can I put out the recycling?**

Uncovered recycling containers must be placed at the curb no sooner than 6 p.m. the day before your scheduled pick up. Emptied cans must be removed no later than 6 p.m. on the day of pick up.

### **When is my recycling collected?**

Recycling is picked up every other week, on your regular garbage day.

In some cases, refuse/recycling collection is delayed by one day following a holiday or a heavy snowfall. In these cases, it is not necessary to call the borough office to file a report... please be patient! If you are concerned that your home or street has been overlooked, please call 412-351-7330 x 0 or check the borough website at [www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html](http://www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html) for the hauler's phone number if the office is closed.

### **How about the other stuff?**

- There are dumpsters in the parking lot of Construction Junction (<http://www.constructionjunction.org>) in Point Breeze (N. Lexington and Meade) where you may take phone books, corrugated cardboard (flatten boxes), junk mail, office paper, catalogs, magazines and plastics not accepted by the borough. Always open.
- Cell phones and printer cartridges are accepted for recycling at the borough office. Also, most wireless providers take old phones (not just their brand) and donate them to charity.
  - Verizon's *HopeLine* donates used cell phones to assist victims of domestic violence. Nearest drop-off location is Circuit City in Monroeville as of the date this is posted. Contact Verizon for additional information or to check locations (<http://www22.verizon.com>)
  - Radio Shack's *Call2Recycle* donates a portion of proceeds from the re-sale of cell phones to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Visit their website for information: <http://www.radioshack.com/home/index.jsp>

— Printer cartridges (not Epson, Canon or Brother) can be redeemed at Office Depot (<http://www.officedepot.com/>) for a free ream of paper or \$2.50 off next cartridge purchase.

- Used building materials in good condition for resale may be taken to Construction Junction. Call 412-243-5025 or [www.constructionjunction.org](http://www.constructionjunction.org)

A complete listing of recycling resources — for motor oil, computers, tires, bicycles and numerous other items — may be obtained at the borough office.

### **Commercial recycling**

Commercial, municipal and institutional establishments within Forest Hills are required to recycle aluminum, high-grade office paper and corrugated paper in addition to the other materials accepted by the borough for its residential recycling program.

Each establishment, or the company that collects their recycling, must submit an annual commercial recycling report to the borough manager by February 15 of each year. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to \$600.

The borough is working with Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) to assist local businesses in setting up private recycling programs, either on their own or by teaming up with one or more adjoining establishments. For more information, call PRC at 412-431-4449 x. 243.

More details about the Forest Hills commercial recycling program can be found in the brochure “Businesses: Why Recycle?” which is available at the borough office.

### **Leaf collection**

Forest Hills is required by Act 101 to separate leaf waste from other garbage, so don't put your leaves in trash bags. You are encouraged to compost or mulch your leaves. If you wish to dispose of the leaves, place them in a pile behind the curb line. They should not be placed on the street.

In late fall, leaves are collected by a vacuum truck and taken to a composting site that is operated jointly by Forest Hills and Churchill boroughs. Watch for signs posted in your neighborhood to indicate estimated pick-up dates, usually from late October through the first snowfall in early December.

### **Free compost for residents**

Residents may pick up composted leaf mulch in the spring FREE OF CHARGE on two Saturdays in June or July (dates are announced in the Tree City Times):

- One visit per household per day
- Bring containers and a shovel to load your own compost
- If you bring an open truck, borough employees will load the compost using heavy machinery
- You will need a driver's license as proof of Forest Hills residency

- Directions to pick-up site: Exit Parkway East at Monroeville Business Route 22. Site is just past first light (Nottingham) on the left side of Route 22. You will have to turn around on 22 and head back west in order to access site.
- Questions? Call Public Works at 412-351-7330 x. 209

### **Christmas tree burning**

The borough holds a tree burning in early January at the Forest Hills/Westinghouse Recreation Center. When your Christmas tree has begun to drop its needles, put it out on the curb the first week in January and borough workers will pick it up and put it on the bonfire pile.

### **A few words about plastic...**

#### **A growing market for recycled plastics**

According to the American Plastics Council, the resins from recycled plastics are used primarily to make bottles, carpeting and textiles, however the demand for plastics is rapidly increasing as more products made from recycled materials are developed. These include lawn furniture, lumber (including park benches, picnic tables and decks), playground equipment, mouse pads, Frisbees and yo-yos.

#### **Check for the neck**

While plastics accepted for recycling in Forest Hills are identified by their #1 and #2 resin codes, many communities are now trying to boost the quantity of recycled plastics by having residents pay particular attention to the shape of the container.

Studies have shown that more people recycle plastics — and in greater amounts — when they remember to first “check for a neck” and then “look for the triangle.”

When looking around your house for plastics to recycle, think out of the (ice) box. In addition to drinks (milk, soda, water, juice) and condiments, many household products are packaged in recyclable containers. These include liquid detergent, mouthwash, shampoo, contact lens solution, vitamins and cleaning products. If you are highly motivated to recycle as much as possible, check the bottom of every container for a #1 or #2. Some non-bottle shaped items can be recycled.

**(Information included here may be changed without notice. Contact the borough office for updated information on the borough’s program. Also, visit our website at [www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html](http://www.foresthillspa.org/fhpa-garbage.html) for further information)**