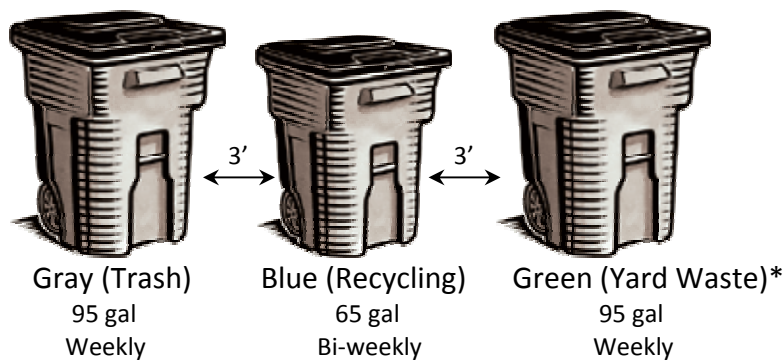


Citywide Curbside Recycling – Coming Soon!

Beginning in January 2010, all Olathe residential solid waste customers will have access to recycling at the curb. Residents will receive a 65-gallon blue recycling cart, and the city will provide you with bi-weekly (every other week) collection of recyclables. The cost of curbside recycling will be included in the base rate for solid waste service, along with weekly trash and yard waste collection and access to the city's year-round household hazardous waste facility.

How It Works

- The new curbside recycling service will begin January 4, 2010.
- Each residential solid waste customer will receive a blue, 65-gallon recycling cart, along with a collection calendar and recycling guidelines.
- Recyclables will be picked up bi-weekly (every other week), on your regular trash day. Your day of the week will not change.
- Place the recycling cart at the curb by 8 a.m. on your collection day if you have recyclables to be picked up.
- Recyclables can be commingled. There's no need to sort.
- The cart must be used for only recyclable materials. No trash.
- As with all SmartCarts, the recycling cart must be placed within 8-feet of the curb, and at least 3-feet apart from other carts, mailboxes, poles, fences, trees, or parked cars:



*Optional Yard Carts are available for purchase for \$75.

You Will Be Able To Recycle...

Mixed Paper

Catalogs
Junk Mail
Magazines
Newspapers

Cardboard

Boxes

Chipboard

Boxes (cereal, cracker, canned soda)
Cores Only (toilet paper/paper towels)
Egg Cartons (paper)
Manila File Folders

Plastics #1-#7 (except Styrofoam)

Bottles (juices, sauces, water)
Jars (fruit, juice, sauces)
Yogurt/Margarine Tubs
Deli/Salad Bar "Clamshells"

Aluminum Cans

Beverage Cans
Tuna Cans

Tin (Steel) Food Cans

Fruit Cans
Soup Cans
Vegetable Cans

Thank you for your continued support in making Olathe a cleaner, greener place to live!

Why is the city making this change?

Curbside recycling is being offered citywide to improve the efficiency of recycling collection and to increase the amount of waste diverted from the landfill.

Will I be required to recycle?

No, residents will not be required to recycle. We hope that residents will choose to recycle as a way to protect our environment and avoid landfill disposal costs. An added benefit is that by recycling, it will be easier to fit all of your trash in your 95-gallon gray trash cart, which will help the city realize the benefits of automated trash collection.

Will there be an increased cost for me as a resident?

It depends. If you were subscribing to the curbside recycling program, you were paying \$19.25 per month for solid waste service, so you will see a cost savings. Now, everyone will pay the same base rate, which is being adjusted to \$18.50 to include weekly trash collection, weekly yard waste collection, every other week recycling collection, and access to the City's year-round household hazardous waste program.

Why should I have to pay for recycling if I'm not going to recycle?

There is a long-term stabilizing benefit to recycling because landfill costs are increasing. The current cost to landfill trash is approximately \$30 per ton. The more we as a community recycle, the less we have to pay to dispose of this material in the landfill – and that benefits all residents.

When will citywide curbside recycling start?

The program will start January 4, 2010. The City will begin distributing carts (blue, 65-gallon SmartCarts) in mid-November.

Why carts instead of bins?

The City has transitioned to SmartCarts because they allow for automated collection, which is more efficient and reduces worker injuries. It's also an easier way for residents to recycle because the carts can be rolled to the curb instead of carried.

When will my recycling be collected?

Recycling will be collected every other week on your regular trash collection day. Your day of the week will not change.

Why every other week collection?

Fewer trips of collection trucks down city roads has cost-savings and environmental benefits. It reduces gasoline consumption and wear and tear on roads. And unlike garbage, recyclables can be safely stored for several weeks.

I don't think I have enough recyclables to fill up a 65-gal cart – is there an option to get a smaller cart?

Residents are encouraged to try the new 65-gal cart when the program begins, but smaller carts are available. Studies have shown that most residents will need the larger size because:

- Recycling is easier so you end up recycling more.
- You will need storage for two weeks of recyclables since collection is every other week.
- Cardboard, even when flattened, is bulky and takes up a lot of room in the carts.
- In order to realize the benefits of automation, all recyclables have to fit in the cart.

How will I know which week to put out my recycling?

You will receive a postcard notifying you if you are "Red Week" or a "Blue Week". An information packet, along with a collection calendar, will be provided at the time your cart is delivered. At that time, you will also be able to find this information online at www.olatheks.org/oms/recycling.

What can I do with my 18-gal bin?

You can keep it and use it to store glass bottles & jars until you take them to a drop-off recycling center, or load it up with items to take to the city's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. You could donate it to a school to use for their recycling program. Or, just place it in your new recycling SmartCart to be recycled.

Why doesn't the City recycle glass anymore?

The city continues to look for ways to collect glass with curbside recycling; however, at this time it is not possible. On a trial basis, the city has placed a container for glass bottles & jars at the Downtown Recycling Drop-off (Kansas Ave. & Poplar St.).