



MUNICIPALITY OF
PRINCETON

Municipal Trash Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated:
March 2023

Questions about the trash program

1. What is changing?

Beginning February 1, 2023, Princeton began its new solid waste collection contract with Interstate Waste Services (IWS).

Beginning February 2023, all households in Princeton that are part of the residential collection received a new 64-gallon wheeled trash cart to replace existing trash cans to use for semi-automated pick up. The new carts are now required for weekly trash collection

Bulk waste, which includes anything that doesn't fit into a trash cart, such as mattresses, sofas, and furniture, will be collected **on Wednesdays by reservation only**. Princeton residents must make a reservation by 11:59pm the Sunday before. Residents will be notified of the collection date once scheduled. Online reservations will be available the week of January 30th. Do not place bulk items curbside until you receive the assigned pick up date. **Bulk items will not be collected without a reservation.** Bulk reservations can be made online here: <http://bit.ly/pnjbulkwaste>

2. What are the reasons for the changes?

Using a standard cart for all households will help contain the cost of trash removal in a few ways. The semi-automated collection system, made possible using uniform trash carts, will be a more efficient method of collecting residential trash. This system will help to increase the speed of collection, improve safety of residential streets, and provide safer working conditions for trash collectors.

Bulk waste by reservation allows the hauler to better plan the collection route. Rather than driving around every street, the hauler can plan a collection route that only stops at the reservation addresses. This system also means that the trash trucks will have fewer trips to the transfer station to empty trash during the garbage collection day since bulk waste is part of a separate collection. Fewer trips to the transfer station means a faster town-wide collection, less fuel used, and fewer emissions released into the air.

3. Who is eligible for residential trash collection?



All residential units in the Municipality of Princeton with 1-4 units are eligible for residential curbside trash collection. Residential homes with five or more units, commercial properties, and some neighborhoods with homeowner associations are NOT eligible for Municipal trash collection and must contract with trash haulers individually.

4. When did the changes take effect?

The new trash collection contract began on February 1st, 2023. Trash carts were delivered to homes in the month of February. Bulk waste collection on Wednesdays by reservation began the week of February 6th, 2023.

5. When will I get my trash cart?

Princeton residents received new trash carts in February 2023. The new trash carts were automatically delivered to households. Once you receive your new cart, you may begin using it immediately. If you did not receive a new trash cart and you are a resident of a qualifying household, please contact the Waste Team by emailing wasteinfo@princetonnj.gov or call DPW at (609) 688-2566.

6. How do I get rid of my old trash can?

If you have trash bins or carts that you would like to dispose of, please place them empty at the curb on your collection day the week of March 13th with a sign taped to them indicating "TRASH."

You can also consider donating or repurposing your old trash can into a backyard composter or additional storage. See a list of ideas here:

<https://wastefree.ca/.../15-ways-to-repurpose-your-old.../>

7. What size trash cart will I get?

All Princeton residents will receive one wheeled 64-gallon trash cart.

8. Can I use my own trash can?

No, Princeton is providing residents with carts to transition to a semi-automated trash collection. Residents must use their new carts so that trash pick-up is easier and more cost-efficient.



9. How can I get an additional trash cart?

If your household requires an additional trash cart due to capacity limitations, you may acquire an additional 64-gallon trash cart for an annual fee of \$300.00 or an additional 32-gallon trash cart for an annual fee of \$150.00. Please be aware that residents are allowed one additional trash cart, so please ensure the trash cart size you request is sufficient. The Municipality is in the process of setting up the cart request and payment processing website to go live in March 2023. If you require an additional cart immediately, you may print and complete [the application for an additional cart](#) and submit with cash/check, or come fill out an application at the Municipal building. Applications and payment can be dropped off at the Engineering Department on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 400 Witherspoon Street.

10. My cart is broken. How can I get a replacement trash cart?

The Municipality will replace any damaged carts (if the cart is damaged by normal wear and tear) for dwelling units that Princeton has issued carts.

New owners that have purchased a property that is missing a trash cart, can apply to receive one replacement trash cart at no charge if proof of property acquisition is provided.

For replacement carts, please email wasteinfo@princetonnj.gov or call DPW at (609) 688-2566.

11. How can I get a smaller-sized trash cart?

Residents who prefer a smaller 32-gallon trash cart as opposed to the standard 64-gallon trash cart can request a smaller size. Please email wasteinfo@princetonnj.gov or call DPW at (609) 688-2566.

12. Can I mark my trash cart?

Yes, residents may spray paint or mark up their trash cart to indicate their home address or unit. Please spray paint the sides of the trash cart that do not contain the Municipal logo.

13. What are the dimensions of the new 64-gallon trash carts?

The 64-gallon trash carts are 43.25" tall, 24.5" wide, and 27.5" deep. The 32-gallon trash carts are 37.63" tall, 19.13" wide, and 21.06" deep. Visit IPL's website for more information.

<https://www.ipl-plastics.com/en/environment/products/file/mastercart-series/1>



14. How do I receive backdoor collection service?

Residents may contract directly with Interstate Waste Services (IWS), the municipality's trash hauler, for backdoor collection at a rate of \$75 per month per 50 ft of driveway. Contact IWS at interstatewaste.com or call 1-866-DIAL-IWS

15. What is bulk waste?

“Bulk waste” is an item too large to fit inside your trash cart, such as mattresses (must be wrapped in plastic), desks, chairs, sofas, or other furniture. Residents are limited to two bulk items per week, not to exceed 50 pounds each. Construction materials, electronics, automotive parts, appliances, or flammable items will not be collected. Visit [Princeton's Trash Collection website](#) for more information on what bulk waste is accepted.

16. What is changing with bulk waste pickup?

Bulk waste will be collected **on Wednesdays by reservation only**. Princeton residents must make a reservation by 11:59pm the Sunday before. Residents will be notified of the collection date once scheduled. Online reservations will be available the week of January 30th. Do not place bulk items curbside until you receive the assigned pick up date. **Bulk items will not be collected without a reservation.**

Make a bulk reservation online:

<https://princeton.seamlessdocs.com/f/BulkWasteReservation>

17. How do I make a bulk waste reservation?

To make a reservation for bulk waste pickup, fill out a request online at <https://princeton.seamlessdocs.com/f/BulkWasteReservation>

18. Is recycling or brush and leaf collection changing?

No, recycling and leaf and brush collection are not changing at this time. The Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) operates and services Princeton's recycling. Please visit [their website for information](#).

Leaf and brush are collected by Princeton's Department of Public Works. Please visit their [website for more information](#).



19. Who can I contact with questions?

Questions? Visit Princeton's Website, email us at wasteinfo@princetonnj.gov, or call the Department of Public Works at (609) 688-2566.

20. Is Princeton offering a residential organics program?

While organics will not be included in the new solid waste contract, we remain committed to investigating other residential organics collection options. Stay tuned for more updates by signing up for newsletter updates [here](#):

<https://princetonnj.gov/728/Mayor-and-Council-Newsletter>

