



# THE RECYCLER

"Serving Northern Colorado Since 1959"

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## Big Changes to Waste Collection in Fort Collins Are Here

On May 19, 2009, the Fort Collins City Council voted to enact changes to waste collection regulations that will have a major impact on recycling efforts and pricing of services.

New city code requires waste haulers to adjust their pricing structure<sup>1</sup>. The changes are designed to create "an economic incentive" to reduce the amount of household waste sent to the landfill. There is no question that these changes have resulted in increased service rates for most of our customers.

All customers living within Fort Collins city limits on subscription trash services will see rate adjustments for service periods beginning and following September 1, 2009. We apologize to those of you who are receiving notice of these changes with your July billing. We are working diligently on a plan to deal with the changes for all our customers.

Please take this time to reevaluate your service needs. We will be sending out service change request cards, should you desire to modify your current service level. We currently provide unlimited recycling with all residential service options and will

be providing larger recycle containers in the coming months.

Please understand that this is not the result of a voluntary decision by

Gallegos Sanitation or Ram Waste Systems. The City is requiring these changes. In our 50 years of doing business in Northern Colorado, our goal has always been to provide the best service at a competitive price. We want you to know that we value you as a customer and we are still committed to our tradition of great service at competitive prices.

For specific information on the new ordinance, please view item 29 on the May 5 City Council agenda, which can be located at: [www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/agendas.php](http://www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/agendas.php). You will also find a link on our website homepage that gives more details.



## holiday alert

Area Landfills are closed every year on the following holidays:

**New Years Day- Memorial Day- Independence Day-Labor Day-  
Thanksgiving Day-Christmas Day**

For **2009**, if your pickup day falls ON or AFTER the following holiday during the regular work week, your normal pickup will be **delayed by one day**:

<b>Memorial Day:</b>	<b>Monday, May 25th</b>
<b>Labor Day:</b>	<b>Monday, September 7th</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Day:</b>	<b>Thursday, November 25th</b>
<b>Christmas Day:</b>	<b>Friday, December 25th</b>
<b>New Year's Day:</b>	<b>Friday, January 1st, 2010</b>

Visit our website for more information about holiday scheduling

### **<sup>1</sup>KEY CHANGES RELEVANT TO PRICING**

- (1) Pricing must be volume-based and follow a formula that incrementally increases 100% at each service level;
- (2) Haulers are prohibited from charging any form of surcharge, such as fuel fees or a flat rate fee, that in the past covered fixed operational costs;
- (3) Haulers are required to charge customers a fee for overloading their trash containers, anytime the amount of trash deposited prevents the lid from being securely closed;
- (4) Fees for extra waste will also increase as a percentage of the new service rates.

## Recycling just got bigger...

...due to the increase in the volume of recyclables and other regulatory changes we now offer 65- and 95-gallon recycle containers. These will provide recyclers with much more space for materials.

Over the coming months we will be stocking up on these containers. In conjunction with this change, we will be moving to every-other-week pickup of recyclables, in an effort to reduce costs and our carbon footprint. Watch your mailbox and our website for more details on how you can get set up with a new cart for recycling!

On a side note... Our recycle routes average 800 stops per day. We have noticed that more customers are using their own personal recycle containers. Although this may seem insignificant, it may result in a "missed pick-up" if we do not know what container you are using for your recyclables.

Please make sure it is clearly marked RECYCLING and contact our office so we can notify the route driver. You may also opt to switch to one of our new large recycle carts instead.

## Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any substance containing ingredients that could negatively affect your safety, health, or the environment.

Words found on hazardous products that should send up a red flag are poison, danger, warning, and caution. Hazardous materials can be found in a variety of products such as furniture polish, bleach, antifreeze, insecticides, paint, and much more.

HHW cannot be dumped in with your household trash or thrown down the drain because of safety and environmental impacts. If HHW is buried in landfill, chemicals can react and cause explosions or enter groundwater.

Please act responsibly. Bring your unwanted HHW to the county's hazardous waste collection facility at the landfill. After all, it's FREE! However, all hazardous waste brought to the Collection Facility must be in a labeled, non-leaking container that can be left at the site.

For more information and directions contact the Larimer County Landfill at 498-5760.  
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Don't Just Trash It!

Commonly used items such as batteries, compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs), and motor oil should not be thrown in the trash. When put in the landfill, they contaminate our drinking water, wildlife and air quality; not to mention it is illegal. Listed are safe and free disposal options:

- **Alkaline Batteries:** Larimer County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
- **Rechargeable Batteries:** Batteries Plus, Best Buy, Interstate All Battery Center
- **Motor Oil:** Checker Auto Parts, Larimer County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Rams Conoco, City of Loveland Drop-off
- **CFLs:** Clay's Ace Hardware, Downtown Ace Hardware (FC), Drake Hardware, Larimer County Landfill Hazardous Waste Collections Facility, the Light Center

Please note if a CFL is broken, open windows for ventilation, sweep up fragments don't vacuum, wipe the area with a damp paper towel and place fragments and towel in sealed plastic bag.

### Warning labels may indicate the item contains hazardous properties

- **Toxic:** can cause injury or death if swallowed, absorbed or inhaled.
- **Flammable:** easily catches fire and tends to burn rapidly.
- **Corrosive:** a chemical or its vapors that can cause a material or living tissue to be destroyed.
- **Explosive:** violently bursts when exposed to pressure or heat.
- **Irritant:** causes soreness or swelling of the skin, eyes, mucous membranes, or respiratory system.
- **Reactive:** chemicals that if combined with certain other substances could result in hazardous reactions such as gaseous emissions or explosions.