

Frequently Asked Questions: Sanitation

1. **Why did the City change to automated trash collection?**

Automation eliminates the need for employees working behind our trash trucks in the street. As a result, it improves employee and public safety, reduces employee injuries and keeps monthly service fees low by improving our collection efficiency. Automated trash collection has been used in the U.S. since the 1970s.

2. **Where do I place my cart(s) for collection?**

Street-collected customers: Please ensure your waste cart(s) are within three (3) feet from the edge of the curb and there is three (3) feet of clearance around the cart(s) on all sides from obstructions, such as parked vehicles, mailboxes, utility poles, fencing, other carts or low hanging limbs or cables. If not, then you may place your cart(s) along the curb where it has the three (3) feet of clearance on all sides.

Alley-collected customers: Will be serviced using our semi-automated sanitation trucks. Please ensure that your waste cart(s) are located in an accessible spot that will not impede alley traffic.

3. **Why might I need additional waste cart(s), and how much do they cost?**

If you regularly have a full trash cart, or often need additional space for yard waste or holiday waste, we recommend you request at least one (1) additional waste cart. **How much does an additional cart cost?** Additional carts cost \$2.00 each per month. City of Salina sanitation service includes one (1) each 96-gallon cart for \$17.00 per month. You may select as many additional carts as you would like. Customers may request a change to the number of carts they need for their household one time annually (by calendar year) for free. Additional changes in the number of carts for a household within a one-year period will result in a \$10.50 "start-service" fee being added to their water bill.

4. **Will items placed outside my waste cart(s) be collected?**

No, items will not be collected outside the cart, regardless of whether your trash collection is at the curb or in the alley. If you regularly have a full trash cart, we recommend you request at least one (1) additional cart.

5. **Can I put grass, leaves, shrubs and branches in my waste cart(s)?**

Yes, but please don't overload your cart(s).

6. **Can my waste cart's lid be open during the collection process?**

No, the lid needs to be closed to prevent waste from being spilled as the cart is tipped into the truck.

7. **Will my waste cart(s) be emptied if it is directly behind a car?**

No, carts need to be accessible and not blocked by any obstruction that impedes the automated collection arm of the truck from reaching the cart(s). Please remember that your cart(s) should have three (3) feet of clearance on all sides, including other carts.

8. **Does my trash have to be bagged?**

No; however, bagged trash does reduce trash blowing on windy days and keeps the inside of the cart cleaner. It is also much easier to clean up if a cart tips over.

9. **What time will my waste cart(s) be emptied?**

That depends on where your house is located on the route, but all cart(s) should be placed at the curb or alley no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection when the routes begin.

10. What does it cost to have an additional waste cart dump?

If you need an additional return service or “extra cart dump”, there is a \$13.50 charge for this service.

11. What is a special pick-up and how much does it cost?

The special pick-up service is for items such as bags, tree limbs, large appliances, carpet, furniture, tires and cardboard boxes and can be arranged by calling the General Services office at (785-309-5750). The rate for this service is \$25.00 minimum per call, not to exceed 15 minutes of loading time. All time required for loading in excess of 15 minutes will be charged at a rate of \$25.00 for each one-half hour or portion thereof.

12. Where can I take my household Recyclables?

The City of Salina Drive-thru Recycling Center (SDRC) is located at 125 West North Street and is open Wednesday-Saturday 8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Please visit the SDRC’s website for acceptable items and additional information, or call Sydney, the City’s E3 Coordinator 785-833-8198.

13. I have old green waste cart(s). How do I get rid of them?

If you have an old green waste cart that was not removed by the contractor in July 2020, please call the General Services Office (785-309-5750) for free removal. Sale carts, yard waste carts and regular green waste carts are no longer used by the City and the new sanitation trucks do not have the ability to collect them. At this time if customers still have the old style carts and have a use for them they are welcome to keep them, just be aware that the City will not be able to collect the waste from them if they are set out on waste collection days.