

SWEEP

Streets & Walkways Education & Enforcement Program



SWEEP is a Streets Department program created in June 1991 to educate Philadelphia citizens about their responsibilities under the Sanitation Code. Initially, **SWEEP** focused on commercial areas. As the program grows, officers are expanding their patrols city-wide.

SWEEP enforces the law against violators through intensive street patrols by uniformed enforcement officers. Through education and enforcement, **SWEEP** supports and enhances individual and community efforts to maintain a clean city. A clean area improves the image, environment, and conditions of business districts and residential neighborhoods, making it more aesthetically pleasing to residents, workers, business owners, and tourists.

Why is **SWEEP** essential?

A clean city is a better place to live and work. A litter-free environment will enhance the city's image and economic vitality and, as a result, will attract tourists, shoppers, and businesses. Compliance with the Sanitation laws is cost effective, since keeping litter off the streets is less expensive than cleaning them.

How does **SWEEP** operate?

Specially-trained Sanitation enforcement officers meet with residents and individuals responsible for the operation of businesses and apartment buildings to review clean-up responsibilities. **SWEEP** officers will work with residential communities to address problem locations. In instances of non-compliance, **SWEEP** officers issue warnings and citations to the appropriate individuals.

What are the benefits of **SWEEP**?

SWEEP is a comprehensive, centralized, and accessible resource for information about the Sanitation Code. To help make Philadelphia a cleaner and safer place to live and do business, **SWEEP** increases awareness of the Sanitation Code, reduces the number of violations, and holds violators accountable.

How can citizens and business owners/operators comply with **SWEEP**?

Trash/recycling should be set out as early as 7:00 PM the night before collection day and as late as 7:00 AM the day of collection at your authorized pickup site.

Early Collection: (Vine St. to Bainbridge St., from Schuylkill River to Delaware River): Trash/recycling should be set out as late as 6:00 AM on the day of collection at your regularly authorized pickup site.

Single Stream Recycling: (Northeast Philadelphia: *North of Cheltenham, from Roosevelt Blvd. to railroad tracks, West and Southwest Philadelphia: South of City Line Avenue to the Philadelphia International Airport and west of the Schuylkill River to the Philadelphia City boundary and South Philadelphia: South of Vine Street, from Schuylkill River to Delaware River*): These residents no longer need to sort and separate recyclables into different collection containers. They are able to place all recyclables in one container for collection. Additionally, they are able to add flattened cardboard along with #1 and #2 plastics which are generally beverage and detergent containers. Recyclers can find these numbers on the bottom of plastic recyclables. For more information about residential recycling, please contact the City of Philadelphia's Streets Department's recycling hotline at 215-685-RECYCLE (7329) or 215-685-7329 or by visiting www.recyclingPAYS.phila.gov.

Recycling Bins/Buckets: Residents may pick up a recycling bin or bucket at a Streets Department Convenience Center, Monday – Friday. Please call first to find out if the containers are in stock. Residents may also use any household container (no larger than 20 gallons), and mark it "RECYCLING." Contact the Customer Affairs Unit at 215-686-5560 for Convenience Center locations and operation hours.

NOTE: The City of Philadelphia collects plastic and cardboard for recycling in areas designated for Single Stream Recycling. City-sponsored community drop-offs for plastics and other items are available in your neighborhood. Call 215-685-RECYCLE or 215-685-7329 for more information about recycling.

Commercial Recycling

The City of Philadelphia's Commercial Recycling Regulations went into effect on October 15, 1994. All buildings served by private trash haulers and the haulers themselves are affected by the recycling rules. Retail stores, offices, larger apartments, institutions, and government agencies must use approved licensed haulers. A list of these can be obtained from the Recycling Office at (215) 686-5444.

Helpful Cleaning Tips:

- All cardboard boxes should be broken down and tied and set out for trash collection.
- Your property and sidewalk must be kept free of trash and litter. Sweep litter into proper containers, never into the street.
- Businesses that sell food for takeout should provide trash receptacles at all points of access.
- Property owners need to inform tenants about the City of Philadelphia's guidelines for trash and recycling collections. Property owners are responsible for their properties, including tenant activity.
- Within six (6) hours of the end of a snowfall or freezing rain, you must clear a path at least 30 inches wide on your sidewalk. Do not shovel the snow into the street.

PHONE NUMBERS

(all numbers 215 area code)



Call one number
686-5560

Cellular Phone call *FIX

For the Streets Department's
Customer Affairs Unit

- Trash and Recycling Collection
Recycling Hotline
685-RECY(CLE) 685-7329
- Illegal Dumping/Clean-up
- Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee
(PMBC, Block Captains)
- **SWEEP**
- Pothole and Street Repair
- Traffic Signals and Signs
- Alley Lighting
- Street Lighting (24 hours, call 686-5610)

Visit us online at www.phila.gov/streets

Guidelines for Businesses with Private Trash Collection

Solid Waste Recycling Plan

In accordance with the Commercial Recycling Regulations, an official Philadelphia Commercial Solid Waste Recycling Plan must be filed with the Philadelphia Recycling Office and posted in a public area within your premises.

Trash/Recycling Timetable

Trash/recycling must be set out not more than two hours prior to collection. For collection scheduled after business hours, **trash/recycling must be set out no more than 30 minutes prior to the close of business.** Dumpsters not licensed for public right-of-way placement must be kept inside the business premises until the proper set-out time.

Trash Containers

Regulations require rigid containers equipped with lids for all trash set out for private collection. Each lid must be securely closed when waste is in the receptacle and containers must be fully leakproof. Wood scraps, cardboard boxes, and other loose items do not require containment provided they are bundled securely enough to withstand wind and rain and do not violate the Fire Code (see the Philadelphia Code, Title 5).

- **Cardboard boxes may never be used as containers for trash/recycling.**
- **City litter baskets are for pedestrian use only. Do not use them to dispose of your trash.**

Dumpster Laws

Laws governing dumpster usage and placement are in effect. Consult your **SWEEP** officer for specific rules pertaining to licensing, identification, frequency of emptying, standards of cleanliness, proper closure, and screening requirements. Dumpsters may not be used for grindable food waste disposal.

Adherence to the Sanitation Code provides cleaner sidewalks, less litter, and a more beautiful city for everyone.

Guidelines for Businesses & Residents with City Trash/Recycling Collection

Trash/Recycling Timetable

To maintain a cleaner City, place your trash/recycling out only on your scheduled collection day. If you are unsure of your collection day, call the Customer Affairs Unit at (215) 686-5560. Set out trash/recycling as early as 7:00 PM the night before collection day and as early as 7:00 AM the day of collection at your authorized pickup site.

Early Collection: (Vine St. to Bainbridge St., from Schuylkill River to Delaware River): Set out trash/recycling as late as 6:00 AM the day of collection.

Trash/Recycling Containers

Place all trash in personal trash cans with tight-fitting lids or leak-proof bags, filled only to the 40-pound limit. Securely tie wood scraps (no longer than 4 feet, no heavier than 40 pounds), cardboard boxes, and other loose items into bundles no more than 4 feet long.

Place all commingled recycling in your recycling container. Mixed paper can be placed in a paper bag or tied with string.

- **Cardboard boxes may never be used as containers for trash/recycling.**
- **City litter baskets are for pedestrian use only. Do not use them to dispose of household trash.**

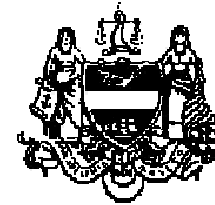
Trash/Recycling Weekly Limits

You may set out up to six containers (32-gallon maximum) or 12 (26 to 32 gallons) leak-proof bags. Private collection is required if you exceed these limits, if your business is manufacturing or wholesaling, or if your building includes more than six units. To arrange for private collection, look in the Yellow Pages under "Rubbish and Garbage Removal." Businesses contracting for private trash services are not entitled to any collection by the City. No recycling container may hold more than 20 gallons.

Citizens should not offer payment for service. It is unlawful for City employees to accept monetary payment.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
The Honorable Michael Nutter
Mayor

Camille Cates Barnett, Ph.D.
Managing Director



STREETS DEPARTMENT

Clarena I. W. Tolson
Streets Commissioner

Carlton Williams
Deputy Streets Commissioner



CLEAN AND SAFE STREETS

Streets Department Internet site:
www.phila.gov/streets

Philadelphia Recycling website:
www.recyclingPAYS.phila.gov

Streets Department Customer Service
Phone: (215) 686-5560
On Cellular phones: *FIX
Email: csstreets@phila.gov

Prepared by the Streets Department
Planning and Public Affairs Office
Revised March 2008

*Let's Work
Together for a
Clean
Philadelphia*



**STREETS
PHILADELPHIA**

SANITATION DIVISION

*Information about SWEEP
and Guidelines for
Trash/Recycling Collection*