

VIEW FROM THE CURB

THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO'S GUIDE TO RECYCLING & WASTE

What's Inside:

- Hydrant Flushing
- Yard Waste Pickup
- Bulk Trash Pickup
- Recycling Pickup & Drop-Off
- Food Scrap Drop-Off
- Hazardous Materials
- Scrap Tire Drop-Off

Quick Tips!

- ✓ Never bag recyclables in your cart- keep them loose
- ✓ Set carts or material out the day before your pickup
- ✓ Report missed pickups within 2 days
- ✓ Only rain goes into storm drains



Scan to view recycling and waste services online



Questions about recycling or waste? Call 311 or (269) 337-8000 for help with city services

HYDRANT FLUSHING



When

- Nightly starting Sunday, April 12 to Friday, April 24
- Flushing occurs between 10pm and 6am
- If necessary, daytime flushing occurs between 7am and 3:30pm
- You can find a searchable map at kalamazoocity.org/hydrantflushing

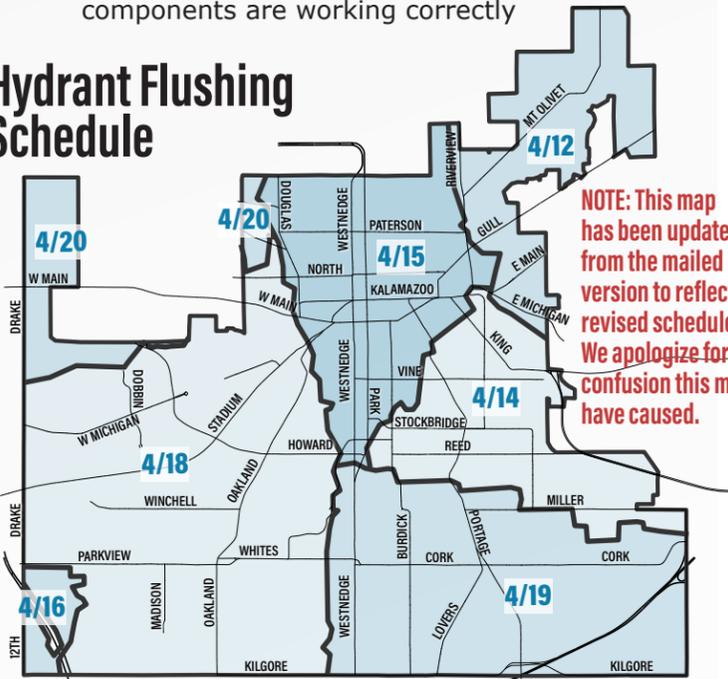
What To Expect

- Flushing does not affect the safety of your drinking water
- Tap water may appear cloudy or discolored temporarily after flushing- run cold water in a bathtub or utility sink until it clears
- Avoid doing laundry immediately after flushing to protect lighter fabrics

Why We Flush Hydrants

- To remove the naturally occurring minerals that accumulate in water pipes from our groundwater
- To ensure valves and other system components are working correctly

Hydrant Flushing Schedule



NOTE: This map has been updated from the mailed version to reflect a revised schedule. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

YARD WASTE PICKUP



When

- Monthly from April through October
- Your pickup day depends on your address
- See the map below, visit kalamazoocity.org/yardwaste, or call 311 to find your day

What's Accepted

- Items must be in open cardboard boxes, biodegradable bags, or bundled with twine
- Weeds, yard waste, and leaves
- Branches and twigs up to four feet long and 2 inches in diameter
- Up to 7.5 cubic yards of material per pickup (about a pickup truck load)
- Bags, boxes, or bundles must be less than 50 lbs

What's Not Accepted

- Loose piles
- Grass clippings, soil, dirt, sod, or mulch
- Rocks, stones, bricks, or concrete
- Railroad ties
- Other landscaping materials
- Construction or demolition material
- More than 7.5 cubic yards of material

Setting Your Bulk Trash & Yard Waste Out For Pickup

- You can put material out the day before your pickup
- Place material in the curb lawn or at the edge of your street (but do not block the street, sidewalk, or bike lanes)
- Make sure everything is out by 6am on your pickup day
- Remove uncollected material or report missed pickups within 2 days

BULK TRASH PICKUP



When

- March, June, September, December
- Your pickup day depends on your address
- See the map below, call 311, or visit kalamazoocity.org/BulkTrash to find your day

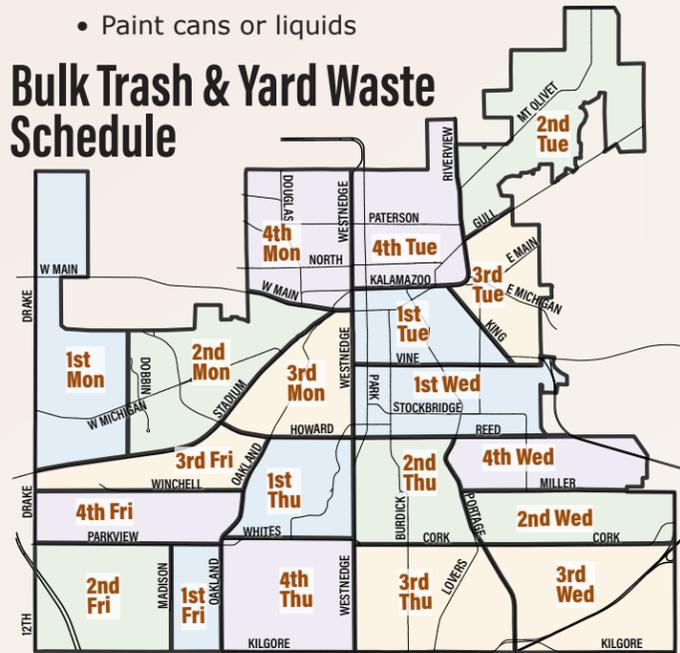
What's Accepted

- Items too large for your weekly trash cart
- Mattresses, old damaged furniture, etc.
- Large household items
- Small amounts of carpet or fencing (cut into 4' x 4' sections)
- Up to 7.5 cubic yards of material per pickup (about a pickup truck load)

What's Not Accepted

- Items in black garbage bags/opaque containers
- Regular household trash, recyclables, hazardous waste, EPS foam, or electronics
- Yard waste or landscaping materials
- Construction materials, glass, concrete
- Loose piles of junk
- Paint cans or liquids

Bulk Trash & Yard Waste Schedule



Is It Really Trash?

Before setting items out for bulk trash pickup, ask yourself — is it really trash? All bulk trash items go straight to the landfill. If your furniture, bikes, or large household goods are still in decent shape, consider donating them to organizations like Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, or NuWay — or list them on an online marketplace or neighborhood group. What you no longer need could be just what someone else is looking for!

Why Black Garbage Bags Aren't Accepted

Items in black bags cannot be safely inspected. For the safety of staff contents must be visible. If items fit in a garbage bag, they belong in your regular trash cart, not bulk trash.

Special Items & How To Handle Them

- **Appliances:** broken appliances are accepted curbside as long as they don't contain chemicals.
- **Hazardous Materials:** chemicals, batteries, electronics, and similar items can be taken to the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center (see next page).
- **Infested Materials:** materials infested with bedbugs or cockroaches must be defaced, labeled, and covered in a clear bag for the safety of the workers.
- **Paint:** latex paint should be dried out and tossed in your regular trash with the lid off; all other paints and stains should be taken to the HHW Center.

FREE BULK TRASH DROP-OFF DAYS

- You can drop off bulk trash directly to Republic Services for free on drop-off days.
- The same material guidelines apply
- Proof of city residency will be required.

Location: Republic Services
3432 Gembrit Circle

Dates: Wed., April 1, 8am - 4:30pm
Sat., April 4, 8am - 12:30pm
Wed., May 27, 8am - 4:30pm
Sat., May 30, 8am - 12:30pm

FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF

Instead of sending food waste to the landfill, residents can recycle food scraps to help reduce waste and create compost.



Locations

- 322 Stockbridge Ave
- Edison Neighborhood Association
816 Washington Ave
- Vine Neighborhood Association
806 S Westnedge Ave
- Oakwood Neighborhood
2515 Amherst Ave
- Milwood Commons
2031 E Cork St
- Temple B'nai Israel
4409 Grand Prairie Rd
- Parkview Hills Clubhouse
3707 Greenleaf Cir

What's Accepted

- Food scraps or organic materials like fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, bones, egg shells, cut flowers/house plants, coffee grounds & filters, tea bags, pizza boxes, and BPI-certified compostable products

What's Not Accepted

- Plastic bags or containers
- Regular paper or cardboard
- Pet waste

Hours

- The drop-off location at 322 E Stockbridge is available 24/7
- The remaining locations are available daily from 6am - 11pm

RECYCLING DROP-OFF

Some items aren't accepted curbside, but you can still recycle them at special drop-off events throughout the year.



When

- Saturday, April 25, 10am - 1pm
- Saturday, July 25, 10am - 1pm
- Saturday, October 31, 10am - 1pm
- Saturday, December 26, 10am - 1pm

Location

- Mayors' Riverfront Park
251 Mills St

What's Accepted

- EPS foam labeled with the #6 symbol (it should break if you try to bend it)
- Clean EPS foam food containers
- Oral care products (toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, floss containers, dental picks, etc.)
- Used water filters
- Paper/documents for shredding
- Large pieces of cardboard
- Computers, laptops, servers, printers, scanners, modems, routers, cable boxes, etc.
- Mobile devices & tablets
- CRT monitors/TVs & LCD monitors/TVs
- Most consumer electronics

What's Not Accepted

- Foam insulation
- Straws or lids
- Packing peanuts
- Smoke detectors
- Glass, rubber, or paper
- Items with liquid or freon



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Some items should never go in your recycling or trash carts, or be set out for bulk trash pickup. Take hazardous materials to the **Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste** Center instead.



This service is free to residents of the city of Kalamazoo.

What's Accepted

- Oil-based paints & solvents
- Automotive fluids (oil, transmission, etc.)
- Batteries
- Chemicals & cleaners
- Pesticides
- Mercury-containing light bulbs
- Electronics
- Find a full list at kalcounty.gov/hhw

Location & Hours

- The HHW Center is located at 1301 Lamont Ave
- Visit kalcounty.gov/hhw or call (269) 373-5211 for drop-off hours

SCRAP TIRE DROP-OFF



When

- Tue., June 9, 1pm - 7pm
- Sat., July 18, 10am - 1pm

Where

- 322 E Stockbridge Ave

Appointments

- Appointments are required to drop off tires
- A link to schedule an appointment will be posted soon at kalamazoo.org/ScrapTires

What's Accepted

- Passenger vehicle and light truck tires removed from the rim
- Only bring the number of tires allowed per your appointment

What's Not Accepted

- Tires from commercial businesses
- Large agricultural or heavy equipment tires
- Tires without a scheduled appointment

WHY PROPER DISPOSAL MATTERS

When we dispose of materials correctly, it helps protect our environment, our health, and our community for future generations.

Chemicals, paint, and oil poured into storm drains flow untreated to local rivers. Hazardous materials can also leak into soil and groundwater if thrown in the trash or dumped. **Food scraps** in landfills produce methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide. Composting them instead reduces these emissions and creates nutrient rich soil.

Scrap tires can collect water and breed mosquitoes. Hazardous waste and electronics can

release harmful chemicals if not handled properly. Materials like **EPS foam, plastics,** and other specialty items can take hundreds of years (or longer) to break down in a landfill. Recycling keeps them out of the waste stream, and allows the materials to have a second purpose.

Proper disposal protects our rivers, reduces pollution, and keeps Kalamazoo clean and healthy.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING



Every city resident can access recycling, with curbside services available to single family homes and dumpsters at multi-unit properties. Just request a cart, learn what can be recycled, and place your cart out for your pickup.

Request a Cart

- Visit kalamazoo.org/recycle
- Call 311 or (269) 337-8000

Multi-unit Properties (5 or more units)

- Property managers can request recycling at their properties with 5 or more units- ask your property manager to offer recycling!

When

- Recycling is collected every other week
- Use the recycling map and calendar inside this newsletter to find your collection week
- You can also view the schedule at kalamazoo.org/recycle

Set Out Guidelines

- Place your cart at the curb the night before your pickup
- Bring your cart back the day of your pickup
- Report missed pickups within 2 days

RECYCLING DROP-OFF

- You can drop off curbside recyclable materials directly to Republic Services
- The same material guidelines apply
- Proof of city residency will be required.

Location: Republic Services
3432 Gembrit Circle

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8am-4:30pm
Saturday, 8am - 12pm

What's Accepted Curbside?



Paper
Mail, envelopes, office paper, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, paperboard (cereal/pasta boxes), paper cups, gable-top cartons (orange juice, milk, etc.).



Plastic
Milk jugs, juice bottles, water/pop bottles, detergent bottles, shampoo/body wash bottles, yogurt cups, food containers.



Metal
Beverages cans, aluminum foil/trays, food cans (soup, vegetables, pet food, etc.).

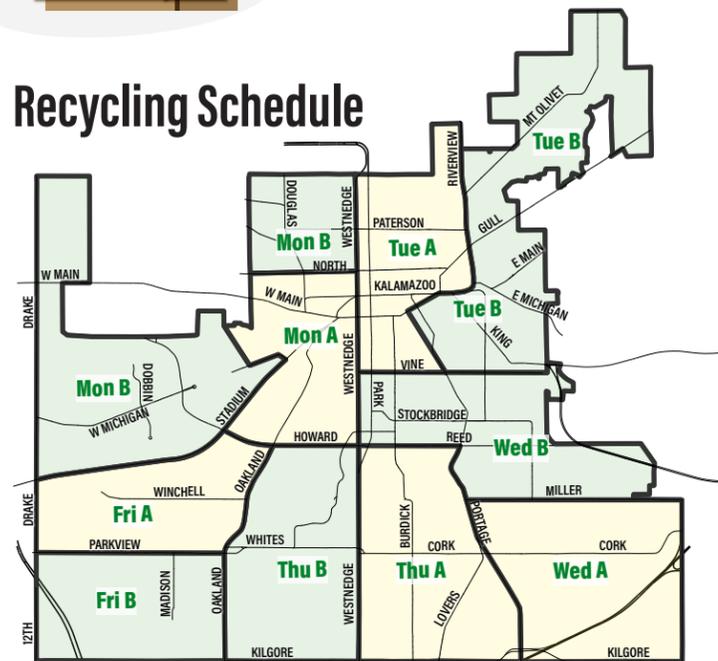


Glass
Beverage bottles, jars (pasta sauce, salsa, jam, etc.), and clear, brown, and green containers.



Flattened Cardboard
Flattened shipping/moving boxes, toilet paper rolls

Recycling Schedule



What's Not Accepted Curbside?



No Bagged Items!
Keep all items in your cart loose! Bagging items make sorting the materials slower and can damage equipment.



No Food or Liquids!
Food or liquids in your cart can contaminate an entire truckload of materials. Make sure your recyclables are always empty, clean, and dry.



No EPS Foam (#6 PS)
These items aren't recyclable curbside, but you can take them to Recycling Drop-Off Events!



No Plastic Bags/Films
Please don't put these in your cart, but you can take plastic grocery bags to stores like Meijer or Lowes to be recycled.



No Electronics or Batteries
Instead of putting these in your cart, take them to Recycling Drop-Off events or the HHW Center.



No Tanglers
Do not put anything that can get tangled into your cart, like cables, cords, hoses or chains.

When In Doubt, Look It Up

With the free Recycle Coach app, you can quickly search for almost any item, from pizza boxes to batteries, and find out how to dispose of it properly. Just type in the item name for clear, Kalamazoo-specific instructions.

Download Recycle Coach for iOS or Android, or search online at kalamazoo.org/recyclecoach.



2026 Recycling Calendar

January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April							May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

July							August							September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1			1	2	3	4	5	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					27	28	29	30	31			

- Gold highlighted weeks are **A WEEK**
- Green shaded weeks are **B WEEK**
- 25 Black dates are **Holidays**. If your weekly pickup is scheduled on or after a holiday, your service will be provided one day later.

My bulk trash and yard waste pickup day is:

My recycling day is:

Cut out this schedule and put it on your fridge!



2026 Recycling Schedule by Week

- Week of 1/5 B
- Week of 1/12 A
- Week of 1/19 B
- Week of 1/26 A
- Week of 2/2 B
- Week of 2/9 A
- Week of 2/16 B
- Week of 2/23 A
- Week of 3/2 B
- Week of 3/9 A
- Week of 3/16 B
- Week of 3/23 A
- Week of 3/30 B
- Week of 4/6 A
- Week of 4/13 B
- Week of 4/20 A
- Week of 4/27 B
- Week of 5/4 A
- Week of 5/11 B
- Week of 5/18 A
- Week of 5/25 B
- Week of 6/1 A
- Week of 6/8 B
- Week of 6/15 A
- Week of 6/22 B
- Week of 6/29 A
- Week of 7/6 B
- Week of 7/13 A
- Week of 7/20 B
- Week of 7/27 A
- Week of 8/3 B
- Week of 8/10 A
- Week of 8/17 B
- Week of 8/24 A
- Week of 8/31 B
- Week of 9/7 A
- Week of 9/14 B
- Week of 9/21 A
- Week of 9/28 B
- Week of 10/5 A
- Week of 10/12 B
- Week of 10/19 A
- Week of 10/26 B
- Week of 11/2 A
- Week of 11/9 B
- Week of 11/16 A
- Week of 11/23 B
- Week of 11/30 A
- Week of 12/7 B
- Week of 12/14 A
- Week of 12/21 B
- Week of 12/28 A

Let's Keep It Clean!

We all play a role in keeping Kalamazoo clean, safe, and inviting. Taking care of your property and following city guidelines helps protect neighborhood pride and quality of life.

A Few Helpful Reminders

- **Curb Lawn & Collection Timing:** Set items out only during approved collection times. Materials left at the curb outside those windows may be removed to keep streets clean and accessible.
- **Porches & Outdoor Areas:** Open porches and decks are meant for outdoor use. Indoor furniture and stored items should be kept inside to maintain property appearance and safety.
- **Grass & Weeds:** Keep grass and weeds under eight inches and remove noxious weeds like poison ivy. Regular maintenance helps keep neighborhoods looking their best.
- **Trash & Debris:** Store and dispose of waste properly to prevent litter and maintain a welcoming environment for everyone.

Garbage & Recycling Carts

- Store containers no closer to the street than the front of the house
- Keep lids closed
- Set out the night before collection
- Bring containers back in by 11pm on your collection day
- If your pickup is missed, report it within two days.

Rental Properties

All rental housing in Kalamazoo must be registered and certified to ensure safety and compliance. Check a property's status at kalamazoocity.org/rental or contact 311 with questions.

You can review the full Code of Ordinances at kalamazoocity.org by searching "Code of Ordinances."



Never Miss a Pickup with Recycle Coach

Another easy way to stay on top of waste and recycling is the Recycle Coach app. With Recycle Coach, you can:

- Get personalized collection reminders
- View your recycling and waste schedules
- Look up how to dispose of specific items
- Report a missed pickup or service issue
- Receive important city service notifications

Download the free Recycle Coach app for iOS or Android, or visit kalamazoocity.org/recycle to access the tool online.