



For Immediate Release  
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## New Collection Program Begins

Harrisonburg, VA – The city of Harrisonburg’s Public Works Department will begin a new refuse and recycling collection program.

Starting on **Monday, August 3**, those who currently receive the city’s curbside refuse and recycling collection services will have an easier way to get rid of their household waste and recycling.

**Single Stream Collection**, also called the “all in one” system, will accept waste and recyclables in the same container. One major benefit of this new program is that everyone in Harrisonburg will now recycle! Residents will no longer have to think about or research which plastics are collected or even how to carry two separate containers to the curb.

How does this program work?

1. Residents will no longer need to separate waste and recyclable materials. Easier than ever, just throw it together! Collection days will not change.
2. The only items that need to be removed are food, liquids and hazardous materials (batteries, paint, motor oil, needles, fluorescent bulbs, herbicides, pesticides, antifreeze, etc.).
3. All waste should be placed into a bag or container and set by the curb for city crews to collect. The amount allowed curbside remains the same.
4. City trucks will still travel through neighborhoods to pick up the combined waste and recyclables.
5. After the collection, the waste is loaded on a larger vehicle and transferred to a processing facility.
6. Upon arrival, the load is weighed. The weight of each load determines how the city is charged.
7. Waste and recyclables are separated at the facility. Recyclable materials are then marketed for reuse.
8. Reports are generated to monitor total tons of waste coming from Harrisonburg and to develop the city’s recycling rate.

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The current recycling rate is 27%. Once the Single Stream Collection Program begins, the recycling rates are expected to increase to a minimum of 50%. Through this new program, a larger variety of materials from the city will be recycled.

“This is a new concept we are bringing to Harrisonburg with a primary goal of increasing our overall recycling rates and decreasing the amount of waste that is sent to the local landfill,” said Jim Baker, director of Public Works.

Bulk collection will still be offered and the community is encouraged to participate in the Hazardous Household Waste Collection days throughout the year. The next collection date for the Hazardous Household Waste Collection will be August 15.

Best practices for a successful Single Stream Collection Program:

- Apartment complexes and businesses with private trash haulers should continue to separate their recyclables and general waste, as the Single Stream Collection Program does not apply. The city will continue to collect recycling from these customers.
- Food items should be removed from containers and not placed in the trash. Composting is encouraged.
- Dump out liquids before throwing away containers (example: milk, juice, water, grease, etc.).
- Remove hazardous items from the trash (example: batteries, fluorescent bulbs, paint, herbicides, pesticides, etc.). It is recommended to dispose of these items at the [Household Hazardous Waste Collection](#).
- Sign up for trash alerts by visiting [www.HarrisonburgVa.gov/notify-me](http://www.HarrisonburgVa.gov/notify-me). Registered users will be notified when the collection schedule changes due to holidays or inclement weather.

As a reminder, this new collection program applies to those customers, who currently receive curbside collection from the city. Apartment complexes and others, who have private trash collection or place their trash in a large dumpster, should continue doing so. Those with private trash collection should also continue placing their recycling by the curbside for collection.

To view additional details on this program and general guidelines in waste and recycling collection, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/single-stream-collection](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/single-stream-collection). Questions? Contact Public Works at 540-434-5928.

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