

## 7.6 - Organics Collection Guidelines

- 7.6.1 The Rules in this section apply only to residential customers receiving organics collection. This information does not apply to households that are not City of Austin residential customers, or do not have City of Austin curbside collection services, unless covered by a separate written annexation agreement.
- 7.6.2 Days of collection are normally Monday through Friday, except during holidays observed by the Department.
- 7.6.3 The Director designates the day a customer will receive service for organics collection. The Director may change the service day(s) at any time, provided the customers receive advance notice. Any changes to service day(s) will be based on the routing needs of the department.
- 7.6.4 The Director may impose restrictions on the collection and/or quantities of certain items to protect departmental employees, or based on equipment limitations.
- 7.6.5 Non-organic items, such as trash or recyclables, must not be mixed with organics.
- 7.6.6 Organic materials that are collected at the curbside include leaves, grass clippings, and small branches and limbs that are smaller than five (5) feet and no thicker than three (3) inches. Curbside collection does not accept branches longer than five (5) feet in length and wider than three (3) inches in diameter. All yard trimmings must be are tied in small bundles using rope or heavy string and weigh no more than 35 pounds.
- 7.6.7 Items not collected at the curb include trash, lumber, large tree limbs (longer than five (5) feet or wider than three (3) inches in diameter), old water hoses, clay or plastic pots, old gardening tools, fertilizers, any dirt, sand, soil, sod or rocks and any other materials not listed which are not biodegradable plant materials.
- 7.6.8 Organic materials, such as grass clippings, leaves, weeds and small twigs, must be placed in a compostable paper bag(s), a compostable cardboard box(es), or in a personal reusable container(s), unless a City of Austin organics cart is provided. Thorny plants, including cacti that can easily injure employees, must be placed in a cardboard box.
- 7.6.9 Customer supplied reusable containers must be no larger than 35 gallons, have no sharp edges, and weigh no more than 35 pounds when loaded. On rainy weather, put lids on containers to keep water out.
- 7.6.10 The use of plastic bags for organics is prohibited. Organics set out in plastic bags will be considered extra trash, and must have an Extra Trash Sticker attached to each bag or they will be charged an extra trash fee.
- 7.6.11 Small brush and limbs must be bound in small bundles no longer than five (5) feet with heavy cord (not wire), must be easy to pick up and must weigh no more than 35 pounds.
- 7.6.12 If limbs are placed in a personal, reusable container(s), limbs cannot project more than six (6) inches above the rim of the container.