



**2021 SCHEDULE**

North Neighborhoods (Round 1)	Nov 15 - Nov 19
North Neighborhoods (Round 2)	Dec 13 - Dec 17
Central Neighborhoods (Round 1)	Nov 1 - Nov 5
Central Neighborhoods (Round 2)	Nov 29 - Dec 3
South Neighborhoods (Round 1)	Nov 8 - Nov 12
South Neighborhoods (Round 2)	Dec 6 - Dec 10

Fort Wayne Street Department will begin the annual leaf collection on November 1. There will be two rounds of collection in each of the city's more than 400 neighborhoods. For daily collection updates, visit [cityoffortwayne.org/leaves](http://cityoffortwayne.org/leaves) or call the Leaf Hotline at (260) 427-2302.

There will be no leaf collection on the following holidays:  
**Veterans Day** November 11 & **Thanksgiving** November 25-26

Fall in the Fort

FORT WAYNE LEAF COLLECTION

# Fall in the Fort

The Fort Wayne Street Department began the annual leaf collection on November 1, 2021. There will be two rounds of collection in each of the city's more than 400 neighborhoods. There will be no leaf collections on Veterans Day, November 11, or on Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday, November 25-26.

To help make leaf pick-up most effective for your neighborhood, please keep the following in mind:

- Rake leaves to the parkway strip by 7 a.m. on the first day of the week when crews will be in your area.
- Don't put leaves in your trash or recycling cart. Leaves are only accepted in brown bags and from leaf piles on the parkway strip.
- Don't burn leaves. It's a violation of City Code and can result in a fine.
- Don't place leaves in the street.
- Don't place leaves in storm drains.

If you bag your leaves in biodegradable paper bags, please call 311 for pick-up. Bagged leaves will be picked up within two business days after you call.

For daily collection updates, visit [www.cityoffortwayne.org/leaves](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/leaves) or call the Leaf Hotline at (260) 427-2302.

# Recycling Reminders

 **Only Place These Items in the Recycle Cart:**



Glass Bottles & Jars



Plastic Bottles, Jugs, and Containers



Metal Cans, Aluminum Foil, and Aluminum Pie Pans



Cardboard, Newspaper, Magazines, and Other Paper



Food Cartons and Boxes

 **Prepare Your Recyclables Properly:**



Empty and rinse all food and beverage bottles, jars, and containers. Allow them to dry.



Break down and flatten boxes.



Do NOT bag your recycling.

 **Never Place These Items in the Recycle Cart:**



Plastic Bags and Wrappers



Clothing and Shoes



Greasy Pizza Boxes and Paper Towels



Electronics and Batteries



Construction Debris



Medical Waste and Medications



Yard Waste



Diapers, Wipes, and Tissues



Tools



Food



Toys



Tanglers (hoses, cords, etc.)



# Interested in a Career that Keeps You Close to Home?

Labor shortages have hit every industry over the last year, and trash and recycling collection is no exception. Since most everything we use moves by truck, the waste industry competes for drivers with the transportation and construction industries. What most people don't realize is that driving a trash or recycling truck offers some unique benefits — steady, year-round work with a good income in a job that allows you to be home with your family and friends in the evening. Plus, you'll be in an industry that is protecting public health and the environment and keeping our community clean.

If you are interested in learning more, check out available positions at [www.cityoffortwayne.org/jobs-with-the-city.html](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/jobs-with-the-city.html). The City's recycling contractor, Red River Waste Solutions, as well as other local waste and recycling haulers, are also seeking drivers and other staff members.



Credit: kalig | iE+ | Getty Images

## Safety Starts with You

Slow Down to Get Around laws, which have been passed by Indiana and 29 other states so far, require that motorists slow down and move over when they see a collection vehicle on its route. These laws are similar to those requiring motorists to move over when they see emergency vehicles pulled over to the side of the road or school buses preparing to stop. These laws don't just protect collection workers — they also protect you and your family.

During 2020, 76 of the 128 fatalities in the solid waste industry involved a member of the public. The most common cause of death is a collision with a collection truck. Sadly, distracted driving causes many of the accidents that result in injury or death. The easiest way to ensure that you and collection workers get home safely each evening is to keep your eyes on the road.

Follow these steps to avoid an accident when you see a trash or recycling truck stopped or slowed:

- Slow down when approaching a trash or recycling truck making its rounds. Stop if necessary to allow workers to do their jobs.
- Look for workers before attempting to pass the truck.
- Check for traffic approaching from the opposite direction before attempting to pass the truck.
- Avoid distractions like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS, while driving near a garbage truck.



Credit: Lilibon | iE+ | Getty Images



## Holiday Trash Pick-up Reminder

There will be no trash and recycling pick-up on Thanksgiving Day. If your regular collection day is on Thursday or Friday that week, your pick-up services will be delayed by one day. Christmas Day and New Year's Day, both of which fall on Saturdays, will not affect your pick-up schedule. Visit [www.cityoffortwayne.org](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org) for details.

# Dispose of HHW on Tuesdays at Allen County Facility

Household hazardous waste (HHW) can easily accumulate in your home, often remaining until you move, remodel, or undertake a large clean-out. This stored HHW can create risks to your family and emergency workers in the event of fires or natural disasters. It's best to dispose of unwanted products promptly. Common HHW includes automotive fluids, batteries, fertilizers, fire extinguishers, herbicides and pesticides, household cleaners, oil-based paint, pool chemicals, and similar types of items.

Take a look at your household products this month and decide what you don't need. Take all unwanted HHW to the Allen County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 2260 Carroll Road in Fort Wayne. Residents must enter the facility from Recovery Road via Lima Road. Drop-off hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Tuesday. Some fees will apply. There is a weight limit of 50 pounds per visit.

Please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers. Remember, never mix chemicals together. When loading HHW into your car or van, place items into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible.

For more information, visit <https://acwastewatcher.org/programs/household-hazardous-waste-disposal> or call (260) 449-7878.

## The Dangers of Lithium-Ion Battery Fires



**A lithium-ion battery sparked this garbage truck fire that closed a city street and put surrounding properties at risk in Bellevue, Washington. (Photo courtesy of Bellevue Police Department and U.S. EPA)**

Did you know batteries can start fires inside your carts, collection trucks, and our waste facilities? Lithium-ion batteries, found in many rechargeable devices like cell phones, laptops, and headphones, pose a fire risk when you toss them in your trash or recycling bins at home. This past summer, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a report, "An Analysis of Lithium-ion Battery Fires in Waste Management and Recycling," analyzing the impact of these batteries when not properly recycled.

The EPA found more than 240 fires caused by lithium-ion batteries at 64 facilities between 2013 and 2020. This number is likely low since data is limited on lithium-ion battery fires not made public or covered in the news.

Lithium-ion batteries can easily ignite when damaged, and in the process of collecting and processing curbside trash, they are likely to be damaged. Mechanized trucks typically crush waste when picking it up. At materials recovery facilities

(MRFs), items travel across conveyors and tumble through a series of sorting machines. At landfills, waste is compacted by heavy equipment. The fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries not only caused damage at the facilities or to the vehicles where they occurred, but they also resulted in injured firefighters, monetary loss, and service disruptions in the community. In addition to posing fire hazards, when we trash our portable devices and their batteries, we cannot reuse the valuable materials they contain in new products.

As portable electronics continue to be a critical part of our everyday lives, our waste and recycling systems will only see more of these batteries. Be sure to recycle your batteries right:

- Tape the terminal ends of your lithium-ion and other household batteries.
- Bag lithium-ion batteries individually in sealable plastic bags.
- Do not place lithium-ion or other batteries inside your trash or recycle cart! Deliver lithium-ion batteries to the Allen County Household Hazardous Waste Facility or one of the County's battery recycling partners. For locations and other details, visit <https://acwastewatcher.org/programs/household-battery-recycling>.
- Take electronic devices that contain non-removable batteries to Allen County's electronics recycling partner, OmniSource. For details about electronics drop-off, visit <https://acwastewatcher.org/programs/electronics-recycling>.



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***[www.RecycleFortWayne.org](http://www.RecycleFortWayne.org)***