

## A Comprehensive DSNY Guide

Fiorello La Guardia, mayor of New York City from 1934 to 1945, famously instructed that “There is no Democratic or Republican way of cleaning the streets.” The Eric Adams administration has clearly taken La Guardia’s famous civic quip to heart, making sanitation and cleaner streets a top priority.

This isn’t an easy time to clean the streets or collect garbage. Outdoor dining structures continue to take up sidewalk and curb space. Environmental and conservation concerns inform separate multiple pickups of different types of waste. Data privacy requires special disposal of computers and phones and other consumer electronics. Empty retail and office buildings pose public safety and foot traffic problems that impact sanitation. Widespread working from home, in some neighborhoods, has changed the nature of residential garbage. Economic activity and fiscal stability – especially as the city continues to emerge from the pandemic slowdown – is a harder balance now.

In the midst of all these factors, City Hall and the Department of Sanitation have made prominent changes in how and when the city picks up and disposes of garbage. Staying current on these new practices and regulations is important, as violations and fines can result from failing to comply.

Several new sanitation rules have been put forth as part of the New York City Department of Sanitation’s (DSNY) coordinated effort with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to clean up the city, in addition to the recent changes to pick-up hours and receptacle use.

**Source Separation of Yard Waste and Commingling of Organic Waste:** With the intent of diverting waste from landfills, mitigating the rodent population, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions DSNY is phasing in curbside composting. In October 2022, DSNY started the program in Queens, finding success with 13 million pounds of organic waste diverted.

The expansion of this collection service will now be on a borough-by-borough basis – **Brooklyn October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023; Bronx and Staten Island March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and Manhattan October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** DSNY will allow for a three-month education and warning period in each borough following the effective date of mandatory organics separation.

On days specified for recycling collection, designated yard waste should also be placed at the curb in the same container as designated organic waste - containers with lids or paper bags. For owners with buildings containing four or more units, you will be responsible for notifying tenants of the new New York City Recycling Law with - at minimum- posting and maintaining one or more signs in waste storage areas. Owners will also be responsible for providing a designated storage area either in the building or space available behind the building’s property line for pre-collection storage of yard waste or organic waste. Lastly, owners will be required to provide a sufficient number of containers in each storage area so as to prevent spillover from containers. It should be noted that the source separation of organic waste other than yard waste shall be on a voluntary basis; however, organic waste may be commingled with yard waste should residents opt to. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3Eh6G6i>.

**Commercial Waste Zones, Customer Service and Operations Rules** – For property owners who have tenants renting commercial spaces relating to customer service and operations, private carters will collect waste. Under this revised rule, owners and their property are protected. Each commercial tenant and designated private carter must, to the greatest extent possible, prevent damage to public and private rights of way and public property. If a commercial tenant or designated carter damages an owner’s property, they must immediately notify the owner, DSNY, and are directed to notify cooperate with other City agencies. Commercial tenants will be responsible for all costs associated with the repair or replacement of property that has been damaged by the equipment, employees, or designated carters. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3QXfXZ3>.

**Rule Relating to Use of Certain Receptacles by a Chain of Stores** – Effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 all chain of stores, which is defined as five or more stores located in New York City by the Department, will be required to set out any waste, including refuse and organic waste, for private carter collection. Regardless of whether such establishments are food-related businesses the rule is in effect. For owners, the same owner rights from the Commercial Waste Zones Customer Service and Operations Rules apply. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3qM4PUf>.

We will keep you informed as sanitation rules and regulations may be modified by the Adams administration. ■