

SWEEP

Streets & Walkways Education & Enforcement Program



SWEEP is a Streets Department program created in June 1991 to educate Philadelphia citizens about their responsibilities under the Sanitation Code. Initially, **SWEEP** focused on commercial areas. As the program has grown, officers have expanded their patrols city-wide.

SWEEP enforces the law against violators through intensive street patrols by uniformed enforcement officers. Through education and enforcement, **SWEEP** supports and enhances individual and community efforts to maintain a clean city. A clean area improves the image, environment, and conditions of business districts and residential neighborhoods, making the City more aesthetically pleasing to residents, workers, business owners, and tourists.

Interpreter services available. | خدمات الترجمة الشفهية متوفرة لدينا | អាចទទួលបានសេវាកម្មអ្នកបកប្រែភាសា ។ | 提供口译服务 | Services d'interprétation disponibles. | 통역이 제공됩니다 | Предоставляются услуги устного переводчика. | Se brindan servicios de interpretación. | Có sẵn dịch vụ thông dịch.

Why is **SWEEP** essential?

A clean city is a better place to live and work. A litter-free environment will enhance the city's image and economic vitality and, as a result, will attract tourists, shoppers, and businesses. Compliance with the Sanitation laws is cost effective, since keeping litter off the streets is less expensive than cleaning them.

How does **SWEEP** operate?

Specially-trained Sanitation enforcement officers meet with residents and individuals responsible for the operation of businesses and apartment buildings to review clean-up responsibilities. **SWEEP** officers will work with residential communities to address problem locations. In instances of non-compliance, **SWEEP** officers issue warnings and citations to the appropriate individuals.

What are the benefits of **SWEEP**?

SWEEP is a comprehensive, centralized, and accessible resource for information about the Sanitation Code. To help make Philadelphia a cleaner and safer place to live and do business, **SWEEP** increases awareness of the Sanitation Code, reduces the number of violations, and holds violators accountable.

How can citizens and business owners/operators comply with **SWEEP**?

Trash/recycling should be set out as early as 7:00 PM the night before collection day and as late as 7:00 AM the day of collection at your authorized pickup site.

Early Collection: (Vine St. to South St., from Schuylkill River to Delaware River): Trash/recycling should be set out between 8:00 PM the night before collection day and 6:00 AM on the day of collection at your regularly authorized pickup site.

Recycling: Weekly single stream recycling has been implemented city-wide. Residents are able to place all recyclables in a recycling container next to their trash for curbside collection on the same day as their trash day. Along with steel and aluminum cans, glass jars and bottles, they are able to add flattened cardboard and #1 and #2 plastics, which are generally beverage and detergent containers. Recyclers can find these numbers on the bottom of plastic recyclables. For more information, please contact the City of Philadelphia's Streets Department's Recycling hotline at 215-685-RECYCLE (7329), or 215-685-7329, or visit www.recyclingPAYS.phila.gov.

Recycling Bins: Residents may pick up a recycling bin at a Streets Department Sanitation Convenience Center, Monday to Saturday, 8am –6pm, or at their local recreation center. Please call first to find out if the containers are in stock. Residents may also use any household container and mark it "RECYCLING." Contact the Customer Affair Unit at 215-686-5560 or visit phila.gov/streets for center locations.

Commercial Recycling

The City of Philadelphia's Commercial Recycling Regulations went into effect on October 15, 1994. All buildings served by private trash haulers and the haulers themselves are affected by the recycling rules. Retail stores, offices, larger apartments, institutions, and government agencies must use approved licensed haulers. A list of these can be obtained from the Recycling Office at 215-686-5444.

Helpful Cleaning Tips:

- All cardboard boxes should be broken down and set out for recycling collection.
- Your property and sidewalk must be kept free of trash and litter. Sweep litter into proper containers, never into the street.
- Businesses that sell food for takeout should provide trash receptacles at all points of access.
- Property owners need to inform tenants about the City of Philadelphia's guidelines for trash and recycling collections. Property owners are responsible for their properties, including tenant activity.
- Within six (6) hours of the end of a snowfall or freezing rain, you must clear a path at least 30 inches wide on your sidewalk. Do not shovel the snow into the street.
- City litter baskets are for pedestrian use only. Do not use them to dispose of household trash.

PHONE NUMBERS
Call one number
215-686-5560



Cellular Phone call *FIX

**For the Streets Department's
Customer Affairs Unit**

- Trash and Recycling Collection
Recycling Hotline
215-685-RECY(CLE) 215-685-7329
- Illegal Dumping/Clean-up
- Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC, Block Captains)
- **SWEEP**
- Pothole and Street Repair
- Traffic Signals and Signs, for requests after 5pm, call 3-1-1.
- Alley Lighting, for requests after 5pm, call 3-1-1.
- Street Lighting, for requests after 5pm, call 3-1-1.

Visit us online at www.phila.gov/streets

Guidelines for Businesses with Private Trash Collection

Solid Waste Recycling Plan

In accordance with the Commercial Recycling Regulations, an official Philadelphia Commercial Solid Waste Recycling Plan must be filed with the Philadelphia Recycling Office and posted in a public area within your premises.

Trash/Recycling Timetable

Trash/recycling must be set out not more than two hours prior to collection. For collection scheduled after business hours, **trash/recycling must be set out no more than 30 minutes prior to the close of business.** Dumpsters not licensed for public right-of-way placement must be kept inside the business premises until the proper set-out time.

Trash Containers

Regulations require rigid containers equipped with lids for all trash set out for private collection. Each lid must be securely closed when waste is in the receptacle and containers must be fully leakproof.

- Cardboard boxes may never be used as containers for trash/recycling.
- City litter baskets are for pedestrian use only. Do not use them to dispose of your trash.

Dumpster Laws

Laws governing dumpster usage and placement are in effect. Consult your ***SWEEP*** officer for specific rules pertaining to licensing, identification, frequency of emptying, standards of cleanliness, proper closure, and screening requirements. Dumpsters may not be used for grindable food waste disposal.

Adherence to the Sanitation Code provides cleaner sidewalks, less litter, and a more beautiful city for everyone.

Guidelines for Businesses & Residents with City Trash/Recycling Collection

Trash/Recycling Timetable

To maintain a cleaner City, place your trash/recycling out only on your scheduled collection day. If you are unsure of your collection day, call the Customer Affairs Unit at 215-686-5560. Set out trash/recycling as early as 7:00 PM the night before collection day and no later than 7:00 AM the day of collection at your authorized pickup site.

Early Collection: (Vine St. to South St., from Schuylkill River to Delaware River): Set out trash/recycling between 8:00 PM the night before collection day and 6:00 AM the day of collection.

Trash/Recycling Containers

Place all trash in personal trash cans with tight-fitting lids or leak-proof bags, filled only to the 40-pound limit. Wood scraps along with tree and brush cuttings shall be cut in pieces small enough to fit in a receptacle for set out.

Place all commingled recycling in your recycling containers of 32 gallons or less. Cardboard boxes may never be used as containers for trash/recycling.

Trash/Recycling Weekly Limits

Trash - You may set out up to 4 containers (32-gallon maximum) or 8 (30 to 32 gallons) leak-proof bags. Private collection is required if you exceed these limits, if your business is manufacturing or wholesaling, or if your building includes more than six units. To arrange for private collection, look in the Yellow Pages under “Rubbish and Garbage Removal.” Businesses contracting for private trash services are not entitled to any collection by the City.

Recycling – There is no limit to the number of containers that can be placed out for recycling collection.

Citizens should not offer payment, monetary or otherwise, for service. It is unlawful for City employees to accept such gratuities.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

The Honorable Michael Nutter
Mayor

Richard Negrin Esq.
Managing Director

Rina Cutler
Deputy Mayor/Deputy Managing Director



STREETS DEPARTMENT

Clarena I. W. Tolson
Streets Commissioner

Carlton Williams
Deputy Streets Commissioner



CLEAN AND SAFE STREETS

All City Services
Phone: 3-1-1

Streets Department Internet site:
www.phila.gov/streets

Philadelphia Recycling website:
www.recyclingPAYS.phila.gov

Streets Department Customer Affairs
Phone: 215-686-5560
On Cellular phones: *FIX
Language interpretation services available
Prepared by the Streets Department
Planning and Public Affairs Office
Revised Jan. 2010

*Let's Work
Together for a
Clean
Philadelphia*



**STREETS
PHILADELPHIA**

SANITATION DIVISION

*Information about **SWEEP**
and Guidelines for
Trash/Recycling Collection*