

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REGULATE GARBAGE, TRASH AND REFUSE (2025-09-10/O-4)

WHEREAS, the Town Council approved changes to the solid waste services provided by the Town as part of the Adopted budget for fiscal year 2026; and

WHEREAS, staff recognize the need to revise the Ordinance to better align with the solid waste services provided by the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that Chapter 8 Code of Ordinances, Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina is hereby amended.

Section 1. Sec. 8-24.1 through 8-24.3 in Article II., Chapter 8 Garbage, Trash and Refuse of the Town Code is hereby revised to read as follows:

Sec. 8-24.1. Brush disposal.

Yard waste materials should be kept separate from and shall not be mixed with any other solid waste material for the purposes of residential collection by the town.

- (a) ~~During the annual fall and winter leaf collection season (October 15 through March 15), residents desiring leaf waste collection by the town shall rake their leaves to a place behind the existing curblines of the street, or, where no such curblines exist, the leaves shall be placed off the street pavement and between the roadside ditch and the front property line.~~
- (b) Residents of the town desiring yard waste material collection shall place that material in rigid yard waste containers behind the existing curblines of the street, or, where no such curblines exist, that material shall be placed off the street pavement and between the roadside ditch and the front property line. Yard waste materials such as limbs, twigs, shrubs, plant or hedge clippings should be or tied securely in bundles not heavier than fifty (50) pounds, not more than four (4) feet in length and not more than twenty-four (24) inches in diameter, so that they can be handled by one person.

All such bundled yard waste material shall be placed behind the existing curblines of the street or, where no such curblines exist, the bundled yard waste material shall be placed off the street pavement and between the roadside ditch and the front property line. ~~There is no restriction regarding the quantity of prepared yard waste placed at the curb for collection at any one time.~~

Yard waste (brush) which is in loose piles not exceeding three (3) cubic yards in size may be placed behind the existing curblines of the street or, where no such curblines exist, the maximum three (3) cubic yard pile of brush shall be placed off the street pavement and between the roadside ditch and front property line. Piles exceeding three (3) cubic yards will not be collected and the resident/owner will be responsible for their removal unless special arrangements are made with the town in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted by the council. Loose piles of pine straw, leaves or grass will not be collected ~~except through the annual leaf collection program~~ and must be placed in a yard waste container otherwise.

- (c) ~~Residents of the town who, because of the nature or quantity of yard waste, or otherwise do not wish to prepare their materials as described in subsection (b) above, may utilize the town bulk yard waste container rental system. By~~

~~appointment only, the town will deliver a bulk container of approximately fourteen-cubic yard capacity to the residence leaving it in a location both accessible to the delivery truck as well as convenient to the resident. They will be located on the resident's property when possible. The resident loads the container and the town returns, usually the next day, to collect and dispose of the loaded yard waste materials. Materials are to be manually loaded only (no machine loading permitted).~~

~~Sec. 8-24.2. Yard trimmings waste collection schedules.~~

- ~~(a) Curbside yard collection is performed on an unscheduled basis.~~
- ~~(b) Bulk yard waste container service is scheduled by calling the public works department and scheduling a date on which the container is to be delivered, on a first come, first served basis. Monday through Thursday, the containers are delivered in the morning and collected the following morning. Fridays, the containers are delivered in the morning and collected on the following Monday morning.~~

Sec. 8-24.2. - Reserved.

Sec. 8-24.3. Limitations on service.

- (a) All yard waste materials not prepared and handled in accordance with the provisions of this policy shall not be collected by the town.
- (b) Grass, leaves or pine straw will not be collected in loose piles. These materials must be placed in a yard waste container for collection ~~(except during the annual leaf collection season).~~
- (c) No materials such as trees, logs, stumps, shrubbery or underbrush resulting from land being cleared shall be collected by the town and shall be the responsibility of the contractor or builder. In the event that the contractor or builder fails to remove such material, it shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property.
- (d) Curbside yard waste collection service shall be provided only to residential solid waste customers of the town. This service will not be provided to institutional, business, commercial or industrial solid waste collection customers ~~(except for the fall and winter leaf collection using leaf vacuum machines).~~
- (e) Plastic bags are not acceptable yard waste containers.
- (f) Dumpsters (commercial/multifamily bulk containers) containing yard waste will not be collected.
- (g) All tinsel, nails, screws, wires, ribbon and other nonvegetative material shall be removed from Christmas trees by the resident prior to being set out for collection. Wreaths may be set out by residents for collection provided that the wreaths are free from wire, screws, metal frames and any/all other nonvegetative material.
- (h) Loose piles of yard waste (brush) exceeding three (3) cubic yards will not be collected.”

Section 2. This ordinance is effective upon enactment.

This the 10th day of September, 2025.