

Give them a helping hand: Austin trash collectors finding many rule violations

Written by Marty Randall

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Austin residents and businesses are being asked to make sure they are following regulations regarding trash set out for city employees to collect.

First, all trash must be in sturdy trash bags that are securely tied. Even garbage placed in plastic or steel trash cans must be in bags so that employees will have an easier time collecting it.

No trash can be put out until 6 a.m. on the date it is to be collected. Putting out trash a day earlier only invites dogs, cats and vermin to visit and perhaps make a mess. City trash collectors will not clean up such messes; that is the responsibility of those who live there. And, once again, all trash must be bagged, not put in boxes or left loose at the curbside. Weight limit for all trash bags is 35 lbs. To expect a sanitation worker to lift bags heavier is not logical. Consequently, use multiple bags if there is a lot of trash to be thrown away. Homemade "bins" to hold multiple bags of trash are not allowed in Austin. Only the commercially-made dumpsters, which can be obtained in various sizes from private refuse companies, are allowed.

Cut down on the amount of trash by recycling. A recycling truck visits streets each second Thursday of the month. Crews collect old, clean newspaper, cardboard, tin cans, aluminum cans, clear glass and some plastics. Recycling bins and more information about what can be recycled can be obtained by visiting Austin City Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Call City Hall at 752-2877 to arrange to have larger items, such as sofas and other discarded furnishings picked up. Most can be removed for a small fee. Old electronics can be donated to Goodwill of Southern Indiana. Goodwill has a store by the Wal-Mart in Scottsburg.

City workers have heard that some residents are allowing family members or friends to bring their trash into Austin to be collected. This too is a violation of the city's trash ordinance and, if proven, all parties involved can be fined \$500 through charges that will be filed against them.

For any other information on trash removal or pickup, get in touch with City Hall.

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