

?New Austin system requires trash at curbside by 7 a.m.

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? Residents of Austin experienced few problems as the community's new trash pick-up system became effective on Friday, January 2.

But several people called the Mayor's Office to complain that their trash wasn't picked up - and there's a good reason for most of those grievances.

In order to have their garbage picked up on designated days, residents must place their trash at curbside no later than 7 a.m.

In several cases, trash hadn't been put out by residents until after the garbage truck crew had visited streets in question. Crews begin work pretty early as a rule because the transfer station, the site where all trash collected in Austin, Scottsburg and the county is collected by a contractor, is open from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. To get two to three loads picked up, compressed and transported to the transfer station takes time. Residents need to help the crew by getting their trash bags and containers out early so that everything is ready to be picked up quickly as the truck travels along city streets.

Another way to help is to be sure that bags and trash containers do not weigh over 33 pounds each. Bag broken glass and other hazardous material on which handlers may get hurt separately. By doing so, crewmen will be aware of a possible danger and take necessary precautions.

Big items can be taken to the new collection area open two days a month under the new trash plan. The collection site, located northwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 31 and Christie Road, was open on Friday, January 9, and Saturday, January 10, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A complete list of what can and cannot be placed at curbside for collection is available at City Hall. Call the Mayor's Office at 794-6646 for more information about trash collection.