

# Proper Recycling & Waste Management

## Bulky Waste

A Guide to Doing it right in Lawrence and Mercer Counties

### What is Bulky Waste?

"Bulky Waste" is a general term for waste items that are too large to fit into a regular garbage bag/cart or difficult to handle as part of regular trash and recycling collection. Bulky wastes includes furniture, large appliances, bathtubs, televisions, large pieces of wood, luggage, and mattresses.

Bulky waste can be a challenge to manage conveniently because it is extremely varied. Although options exist, bulky items are often dumped illegally by people trying to avoid paying for their proper disposal.

Some bulky items have special recycling or disposal requirements. Tires, televisions, and computer systems are banned from landfill disposal in Pennsylvania. Televisions and computer systems are required to be recycled. Freon-containing units must have their refrigerants certifiably removed before they can be recycled.

### What are my Options?

#### Your Hauler

Your regular trash hauler may offer special pickup services for bulky items for an additional fee.

#### General Haulers

General haulers tend to be smaller independent haulers who specialize in home basement or garage clean outs. Be sure to always pay with a check, demand a receipt, look for a company name and phone number (at the minimum) on the truck, be wary of "good deals," and be concerned about any hauler accepting items that are not normally accepted such as televisions or tires. Be sure to check out our Fact Sheet "Hiring a Hauler" for detailed information.

#### Roll-off Boxes

If you have quite a few bulky items, getting a roll-off box is a good option. Roll-off boxes are available in a variety of sizes and can be ordered for different lengths of time. This service is widely available throughout our area.

#### Landfills and Transfer Stations

If you have the transportation, you can take your bulky items directly to a landfill or transfer station. This option may be less expensive than getting a roll-off box or hiring a general hauler.

#### Spring or Seasonal Cleanups for Bulky Items

Seasonal cleanups are usually provided through municipal contracts and in rarer instances by municipalities. These cleanups, sometimes referred to as "spring cleanups" are great tools to provide residents the opportunity to properly dispose of their bulky waste. We recommend adding seasonal cleanups to municipal waste and recycling contracts. Seasonal cleanups will slightly increase contract costs, but are usually valued and appreciated by residents.

Some rural municipalities stage roll-off boxes and host spring or fall cleanups for their residents.

#### Tag Programs (Bulky Items Only)

Tag programs are provided through municipal contracts, giving residents the option of purchasing special tags to place on bulky items for pickup at the curb. Tag programs can stand alone, but are also a good supplement to a seasonal cleanup program. Tags programs differ between contracts. Unlike seasonal cleanups that split the cost of the program between all the contracted residents, the cost of the bulky waste tags are paid for by the individual using the service.

#### Special Collections & Drop-offs

As noted earlier some items are banned from landfill disposal. There are special programs available and locations that will accept some of these materials and more. Our annual "Electronics Recycling Guide" is a good source. We also have special facts sheets that describe some hard-to-dispose items in detail and offer direction on how to properly manage them.

Some municipalities are now including programs for electronics and household hazardous waste in their trash and recycling contracts.



Recycling/Solid Waste Department

