

**Charlotte County**  
**Refuse/Yard Waste Drop-off Use Policies**  
**For Use By Charlotte County Residential Households Only**  
**Operated by Charlotte County Solid Waste Division**  
*Effective Date - May 10, 2006*

**POLICY:**

The County's Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facilities [West Charlotte and Mid-County] are made available for disposal and recycling activities: refuse, rubbish, bulky items, tires, appliances, hazardous wastes, used hypodermic needles, electronics, recyclables and yard wastes generated from occupied dwelling property. Use of these facilities is limited to those residents living within Charlotte County.

Important: The County has established a limit on the volume of refuse, and yard waste that can be dropped off at these facilities for disposal at **26** cubic yards per year total/per residential property for Charlotte county residents. See section on limitations.

Residents must provide proof of county residency; a valid driver's license with Charlotte County address, or a picture identification card along with either a rental agreement, or utility bill or tax receipt. Seasonal residents with out of state driver's licenses need to provide proof they are living in Charlotte County, this proof may include; property ownership or leases agreement or rental agreement. A P.O. Box will not be accepted as proof of residency.

Businesses, non-profit organizations, associations, and property managers are not permitted to use these facilities for disposal or processing of materials their business or group generates. The facility will permit limited use by these groups and small businesses to participate in the recycling of cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, plastics containers, glasses bottles, newspaper and office paper. This would also include all departments under the Board of County Commissioners, the Charlotte County Sherriff's Office and State Agencies.

Property owners of vacant property without dwelling units are not eligible to use these facilities for disposal of refuse, rubbish, bulky items and yard wastes, tires, appliances, electronics, hazardous waste, or other materials that the facility may identify for disposal or processing. These facilities will not accept waste from vacant property.

- Residents must have the ability to off-load materials by hand.
- Customers need to comply with Florida Statues requiring their loads be covered and/or secured.

**Access:**

Customers that fail to provide valid proof of residency shall be deemed invalid and denied access and use of facility. Proof of county residency consists of; a valid driver's license with Charlotte County address, or rental, or utility or tax receipt.

## Hours of Operation:

Tuesday through Saturday: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The facility will be Closed for County recognized Holidays.

Note: Vehicles carrying materials requiring substantial amount of time for unloading will not be allowed access after 3:30 PM.

## CARE Re-Use Store:

CARE [Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.] is a non-profit local organization. The Re-Use store will accept donations of used toys, appliances, furniture, hand tools, and other similar household items which are still in a usable condition. CARE sells donated items to help fund the programs the organization provides to Charlotte County residents. CARE staff will determine need and can reject or accept materials at their sole discretion. County staff does not operate this facility. The County does not accept donations after the C.A.R.E. personnel has left for the day. Although operation hours vary by facility, both C.A.R.E. locations are operational between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00pm.

## Limitations [Handling and Materials Restrictions]:

1. Volume Restriction Policy: Each residential property with a dwelling unit is limited to a total volume per calendar year [12 months, January through and including December] not to exceed: **26 cubic yards**. Calculations of the quantity delivered will be made by the attendant on duty with each visit by the resident. *[see Appendix for the calculation mythology used]* The accumulative total per residential address will be tracked by the Solid Waste Division. Residents will be denied access should they attempt to exceed the established limit. Residents have several options; 1) take material to the landfill and pay a disposal fee, 2) hire a contractor to take the material to a permitted disposal location 3) set material at their curb for curbside services. Each January the residential address will start with a zero cubic yard accumulation total.
2. Load Inspections: To ensure that prohibited items are not deposited into transport containers, facility staff will perform random load inspections to identify waste and generator of waste. Solid Waste operations must comply with Federal and Florida regulations, specifically Florida Administrative Code 62-701. Load Inspections will also be performed on suspected business activity; this may be initiated by a customer's frequency of use or by the nature of the waste delivered, should it non-typical of waste that would be generated by a residential property.
3. Restrictions, Prohibitions, or Special conditions: To ensure the safety of customers, facility attendants and others, the following limitations and/or restrictions must be enforced:
  - A. Prohibited Trailers and/or Vehicle:

- Commercial vehicles will be permitted to use the facilities, provided the vehicle is not used to dispose of commercial or business waste. The commercial vehicles will be prohibited if the nature of their material or quantities would be presumed to be commercial and therefore non-eligible.
- Owners of vehicles in the business of hauling waste, such as carpeting, construction materials, yard waste or “junk” material, will not be allowed to dispose of this waste at the Facility.
- Trailers longer than 12 feet in length or wider than six (6) feet are prohibited.

B. Prohibited Materials:

- explosives and firearms are prohibited
- leaking containers are prohibited
- combustion engines [marine, auto, truck, tractor and similar gasoline, or diesel engines] are prohibited
- junk cars, boats, tractors, trailers are prohibited
- yard waste in plastic bags is prohibited,
- land clearing debris is prohibited such as the amount generated by clearing land to build a house
- food, fruit and other rotting or odorous materials are prohibited
- Medical waste is prohibited; such as bandages, prescription and non-prescription drugs.

C. Restrictions/Clarifications

- used hypodermic needles [sharps] must be in approved and sealed medical waste container – the facility will provide empty approved containers to resident
- length limits for refuse and yard waste is limited to 8 foot long sections
- residential used lawn mowers must have oil, battery and fuel removed
- re-modeling debris is limited to material generated by the resident/property owner and does not include re-roofing, new additions or major repairs to dwelling
- tree stumps that are larger than 20 inches in diameter are prohibited

**Examples of Typical Materials Accepted:**

*Customers using trailers or pick-up trucks are reminded to use tarps to cover and secure their loads*

Special Wastes:

- Appliances (Washers, dryers, refrigerators, water heaters and stoves)
- Air Conditioners
- Lead-Acid (automobile & marine) batteries
- Fluorescent Bulbs: “Unbroken” fluorescent bulbs will be accepted, Note: Broken bulbs release mercury and therefore cannot be accepted at the facility.

- Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT's) and Electronic Equipment: Cathode ray tubes (televisions, computer monitors)
- Electronic equipment (VCR/DVD Players, stereo receivers, and similar items)
- Propane tanks: tanks must not be larger than 71.5 pounds capacity
- Household chemicals such as paints and pesticides
- Used Engine Oil and Oil Filters
- Gasoline, diesel fuel
- Anti-freeze
- Tires: Limit 6 per year. Pick-up Truck and Car Tires with a Maximum size R17 or smaller, with or without rims

Yard Waste:

- Yard waste; pruning materials from routine residential property includes palm fronds, branches, limbs, and clippings.

Refuse:

- Furniture (mattresses, desks, chairs, tables, sofas, and similar household items)
- Toys, swing sets, lawn furniture
- Re-modeling debris from small home projects performed by the property owner is allowed and may include these typical types of project materials; floor and bathroom tile, cabinets, carpeting, wood, gypsum, and concrete, bricks, blocks, pallets, wire cable, and pipes.

**Enforcement:**

Suspected commercial or business waste use will be prosecuted through the County Code Enforcement Division and/or Sheriffs' Office and/or State Attorney's Office, as appropriate for the offence, the County will seek financial restitution.

***Appendix & Justifications***

**Trailer Size Limit:** The prohibition of trailers over 12 feet in length is necessary: 1) long trailers exceed the facilities design for safe turning radius, and hinder the egress of other customer vehicles 2) large trailers loaded with materials monopolize space as the customer takes a disproportionate amount of time to unload large volumes of material, 3) these facilities are designed to provide residents with quick and efficient access, 4) large trailers are typically associated with commercial business activities.

**Dump trucks:** The prohibition for dump trucks is necessary: 1) are typically associated with commercial business activities 2) the facility is not designed for dumping loads, as materials must be lifted into the transport trailers

**Tree stumps larger than 20 inches:** This prohibition is necessary: 1) large stumps are typically associated with commercial business land-clearing activities.

**Volume Restriction Policy:** This prohibition is necessary: 1) Customers generating more than the identified limit would be associated with commercial / business activity 2) large volume customers are taxing the facilities resources 3) excessive volumes are inflating the cost of operations 4) generate excessive quantities of materials requiring the need to transport to the landfill for processing.

### Volume Estimation Formula

Type of Vehicle	Measurement *
Car Trunk	
Large car	Full Trunk = ½ cubic yard
Small car	Full Trunk = ¼ cubic yard
Pick-up Truck	
Regular Bed	1 foot of volume = 1 cubic yard
Large Bed	1 foot of volume = 1 cubic yard
Trailers	
6 to 7 foot long	1 foot of volume = 1 cubic yard
8 to 10 foot long	1 foot of volume = 1 ½ cubic yards
11 to 12 foot long	1 foot of volume = 2 cubic yards

- Volume calculation is based on the entire truck or trailer beds evenly distributed with debris, facility operator will make adjustments for voids or partial loads.
- Visual estimations can assume that a typical job site port-a-john is the equivalent to 3 cubic yards

## Load Inspections – Suspected Commercial Use of Facility

Suspect customers may be identified as a result of the following criteria: Size of load, type of vehicle, characteristics of debris, frequency of visits. These or other factors can all trigger a load inspection.

1. Facility operator to complete a load inspection form
2. Forwarded to EES office and a determination/investigation of the identified individual will be initiated to see if they have a business license in Charlotte County.
  - If no, staff will forward non-license information to the assigned solid waste staff person who will determine appropriate actions, such as gathering of additional data, photos, and/or forwarding information to Community Development's licensing section as a potential un-licensed contractor.
  - Recycling center's facility operator will be notified of current action or may be asked to gather additional specific information.
  - If yes, a copy of license and other information will be attached to the load inspection report – staff will forward information to the assigned solid waste staff person who will contact Code Compliance illegal dumping task force to investigate.

Recycling center's facility operator will be notified that code compliance is investigating.

3. Code Compliance or Licensing Section will report their findings to the Solid Waste Division and these results will be forwarded to the Recycling Center's facility operators.

### Load Inspection Program

Date of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_ [AM or PM]

Inspector's Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_.

Vehicle License Plate No: \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer License Plate No: \_\_\_\_\_.

Origin of Waste: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Observation of Load Inspection [Identify Waste]:**

Prohibited Items Found - List & Description

Possible commercial waste activity – Description

Photo Taken?# \_\_\_\_\_.

Policy Information Issued to Customer?

Customer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_.

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Supervisor - Action Taken or Recommended:**

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_.

Forward copy of inspection to EES Main Office for Processing