

Cherokee County, South Carolina

Residential Solid Waste Collection Policy



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear standards for residential solid waste collection services provided by Cherokee County. These standards are intended to promote operational efficiency, ensure public safety, maintain sanitary conditions, and provide equitable solid waste collection services to eligible residential properties.

Cherokee County reserves the right to modify or discontinue solid waste collection services in accordance with County policy and applicable law.

Section 1 – Eligible Properties for County Collection

Cherokee County will provide curbside residential solid waste collection services only to the following property types:

1.1 Single-Family Residences

Detached residential structures occupied as a single dwelling unit on an individual parcel are eligible for County solid waste collection service (up to two residential structures per parcel.)

1.2 Duplex Residences

Duplex residential structures containing two dwelling units are eligible for County solid waste collection service if on an individual parcel.

1.3 Townhomes

Townhome residential structures are eligible for County solid waste collection service if townhome is located on an individual parcel. Within any type of townhome development in which each townhome is individually parceled to a county resident, these structures are eligible for County solid waste collection service unless development contains more than fifty (50) townhomes. If overall development contains more than fifty (50) townhomes, development must utilize a centralized dumpster system serviced by a private solid waste collection company.

Section 2 – Properties Not Eligible for County Collection

The following property types are not eligible for curbside collection services provided by Cherokee County:

2.1 Large Townhome Developments

Townhome developments containing more than **fifty (50) townhome units** shall not receive individual curbside collection service.

Such developments shall be required to utilize a **centralized dumpster system** serviced by a private solid waste collection company.

2.2 Churches and Religious Organizations

Churches, religious institutions, and similar organizations are not eligible for County residential collection services and shall provide their own dumpster or roll cart collection service effective October 31st, 2026.

2.3 Non-Profit Organizations and Institutions

Organizations including but not limited to:

- Non-profit organizations
- Community centers
- Lodges
- Schools (Public Schools, Charter Schools, Private Schools)
- Daycare facilities
- Fraternal organizations
- Fire Departments
- Recreation Areas and Centers

shall be required to utilize private dumpster or roll cart service effective October 31st, 2026.

2.4 Commercial Properties

Commercial businesses and industrial facilities shall not receive residential curbside collection service from the County.

RV Parks, Mobile Home Parks, and tiny home developments shall not receive curbside collection service from the County effective October 31st, 2026. Any property considered a mobile home park, RV park, or tiny home development is defined by a parcel of property with more than two

detached residential or temporary residential structures occupying the parcel. If a mobile home is owned by an individual but the land in which the structure sits is owned by another individual or company and the parcel houses more than two structures, the owner of the mobile home will not incur a solid waste collection and disposal fee. The owner of the parcel overall shall be responsible for providing a centralized dumpster/roll cart system serviced by a private solid waste collections company.

No multifamily properties including, but not limited to, apartment and condo complexes are eligible for residential curbside collection service from the County.

Section 3 – Required Waste Containers

Residents receiving County solid waste collection service must utilize approved containers.

3.1 County Issued Carts

Solid waste must be placed in containers as provided by Cherokee County.

3.2 Container Limits

Each eligible residence shall be allowed a maximum of three carts per residence.

Beginning July 1st, 2026, the Cherokee County Solid Waste Collections Department will be performing an audit of each service location to determine eligibility as well as conducting inventory of carts per residence. Any residence with more than three carts will not have those additional carts serviced after July 1st, 2026.

Cherokee County provides service to one cart, and any carts present at the residence prior to July 1st, 2026 (not to exceed three carts,) at no additional charge. Additional carts may be issued up to three carts for a one-time fee of \$100.00 per cart to be paid through the Cherokee County Treasurer's Office.

Section 4 – Cart Placement Requirements

For collection to occur, containers must be properly placed at the curb/roadside.

4.1 Distance from Road

Containers must be placed no more than **five (5) feet from the edge of the roadway** unless otherwise approved by the County.

4.2 Placement Location

Containers must be placed:

- At the curb or roadside
 - Away from mailboxes, vehicles, utility poles, and other obstructions
 - With wheels facing the residence
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Section 5 – Collection Schedule

Cherokee County will establish collection routes and schedules as necessary for efficient service.

The County reserves the right to modify collection routes and schedules based on operational needs.

Missed collections due to improper placement or violation of this policy will not be automatically rescheduled. Cherokee County will utilize camera systems mounted on the vehicles to ensure validity of missed collections.

Cherokee County will be transitioning from a four-day collection schedule to a five-day (Monday-Friday) collection schedule beginning no later than August 1st, 2026. During this transition period, there may be changes to the current route collection days. To ensure continuity of service to residents, Cherokee County requests that carts are placed at the roadway in accordance with Cart Placement Requirements in section 4 of this policy from Monday to Friday until transition period concludes.

Section 6 – Responsibility of Residents

Residents receiving County solid waste collection services are responsible for:

- Properly placing containers for collection
 - Ensuring containers are not obstructed
 - Maintaining the cleanliness of carts
 - Removing containers from the curb following collection
 - Complying with all provisions of this policy
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Section 7 – Enforcement

Failure to comply with the requirements of this policy may result in:

- Refusal of collection service
- Written warning
- Suspension of service
- Other enforcement actions authorized by County ordinance

The County may require properties that repeatedly violate this policy to utilize private waste collection services.

Section 8 – Administrative Authority

The Cherokee County Solid Waste Collections Department shall administer and enforce this policy.

The Public Works Director or designee may adopt additional procedures necessary to implement this policy.

Section 9 – Policy Amendments

Cherokee County reserves the right to modify, amend, or repeal this policy at any time as necessary to ensure efficient operation of the County solid waste system.

Section 10 – Road Accessibility Requirements

Cherokee County will only provide solid waste collection services on roads that are reasonably accessible and safe for County collection vehicles.

10.1 Public Roadways

The County will provide curbside collection service only along public roads that are maintained by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT,) Cherokee County, City of Gaffney, or Town of Blacksburg. If resident is located on a private drive, collection will still occur, but carts must be placed at the intersection of the private drive and a publicly owned roadway for weekly collection.

Residences along private road systems may apply with Cherokee County Solid Waste Collections Department to be included for true curbside collection; however, all stakeholders of the private road system (those responsible for maintenance) must sign off on liability waivers by

Cherokee County and the private road system must meet minimum road standards provided in section 10.2.

10.2 Minimum Road Standards

Roads serviced by County collection vehicles must meet the following minimum standards:

- Adequate width to safely accommodate collection trucks
- Sufficient turning radius for collection vehicles
- Stable driving surface capable of supporting heavy equipment
- No overhead obstructions that could damage collection equipment
- No unsafe grades or conditions that create hazards

If a road becomes unsafe for collection vehicles due to deterioration, obstruction, flooding, or other hazards, the County may temporarily or permanently suspend collection service along that roadway.

10.3 Obstructions

Collection service may be denied when:

- Vehicles block access to containers
- Low hanging limbs obstruct truck access
- Construction materials or debris obstruct the roadway
- Any condition exists that could damage County equipment or create safety risks

Section 11 –Private Roads

Due to the size and operational limitations of solid waste collection vehicles, the County will not service private roads (carts must be placed at the intersection of the private road system and a public road system weekly) unless an application is submitted and approved with the Cherokee County Solid Waste Collections Department. **however, all stakeholders of the private road system (those responsible for maintenance) must sign off on liability waivers by Cherokee County and the private road system must meet minimum road standards provided in section 10.2.**

11.1 Dead-End Roads Without Turnaround

County collection vehicles will not enter dead-end roads unless a **safe and adequate turnaround area** is available.

Acceptable turnaround options may include:

- Cul-de-sac
- Dedicated turnaround pad
- Sufficient turnaround space approved by the Solid Waste Department

If an adequate turnaround is not available, residents must place containers at the nearest accessible public road.

11.2 Private Roads

The County will not provide curbside collection service on **private roads that are not maintained by the County, SCDOT, City of Gaffney, or Town of Blacksburg** unless the road meets minimum safety standards and access requirements and the proper application has been reviewed and accepted by Cherokee County.

Residents located on private roads may be required to place containers at a designated collection point along the nearest accessible public roadway.

11.3 Shared Collection Points

In areas where collection vehicles cannot safely access individual residences, the County may establish **shared collection points** where multiple residents place their containers for service.

Section 12 – Missed Collection and Service Appeals

12.1 Missed Collection Requests

Residents who believe their container was missed may contact the Cherokee County Solid Waste Department to request a review of the missed collection.

Requests must be submitted **within 24 hours of the scheduled collection day**.

12.2 Investigation of Missed Collections

The Solid Waste Department will review route records and operational reports to determine the cause of the missed collection.

Missed collections will only be rescheduled if the container was properly placed and all requirements of this policy were followed.

12.3 Improper Placement

Collection will not be rescheduled if the container was:

- Not placed at the roadside

- Placed too far from the roadway
- Overfilled or improperly loaded
- Obstructed by vehicles or other objects
- Placed out after the collection truck had already passed

In such cases, the resident must wait until the next scheduled collection day.

12.4 Service Appeals

Residents who dispute a service determination may submit a written request for review to the Cherokee County Public Works Director.

The Public Works Director or designee shall review the matter and issue a final determination regarding service eligibility or collection requirements.

The decision of the Public Works Director shall constitute the final administrative determination regarding residential collection service.

Section 13 – Container Damage and Replacement

Cherokee County provides approved solid waste containers for residential collection service. These containers remain the property of Cherokee County and must be properly maintained by the resident.

13.1 County Ownership of Containers

All solid waste containers issued by Cherokee County remain the property of the County. Containers are assigned to the residential address and must remain at that location when residents move. When a container is ‘purchased’ through the Cherokee County Treasurer’s Office, the purchase signifies the service of that additional container, not the container itself.

Residents shall not remove containers from the property to which they are assigned. Residents shall notify Cherokee County Solid Waste upon moving if the resident has more than one container being serviced at their location. Any additional carts at the residence will be retained by Cherokee County Solid Waste.

13.2 Normal Wear and Tear

Cherokee County will repair or replace containers at no cost to the resident when damage occurs due to:

- Normal wear and tear
- Mechanical damage caused by County collection equipment

- Manufacturing defects
- Other damage determined by the Solid Waste Department to be the responsibility of the County

The Solid Waste Department may inspect the container before authorizing replacement.

13.3 Resident Responsibility for Damage

Residents may be required to pay a replacement fee if a container is damaged due to:

- Negligence or misuse
- Fire damage
- Intentional destruction or vandalism caused by the resident or occupants
- Alteration of the container
- Placement of prohibited materials that damage the container
- Vehicle damage caused by the resident or visitors to the property

Replacement containers can be purchased for continuance of service for \$100.00 per cart.

13.4 Lost or Stolen Containers

Residents must report missing containers to the Solid Waste Department.

If a container is determined to be lost or stolen due to resident negligence, the resident may be required to pay the replacement cost.

The County may waive replacement fees when theft or loss is verified and not caused by the resident.

13.5 Unauthorized Containers

Residents shall not use containers that are not approved by Cherokee County for mechanical collection.

Unauthorized containers will not be serviced by County collection vehicles.

13.6 Replacement Requests

Residents requesting container repair or replacement must contact the Cherokee County Solid Waste Department.

The County may inspect the container prior to replacement or repair.

13.7 Additional Containers

Residents requesting additional containers may do so subject to availability and any applicable fees established by the County.

Section 14 – Bulk Item Collection Policy

Bulk items are large household items that cannot reasonably fit inside standard residential solid waste containers.

14.1 Definition of Bulk Items

Bulk items may include, but are not limited to:

- Furniture (chairs, couches, tables)
- Mattresses and box springs
- Household appliances
- Large household items

Bulk items do not include construction debris or waste generated by renovation or demolition activities.

14.2 Bulk Item Collection Services

Cherokee County does not provide bulk item collection services. Bulk items may be taken to the Cherokee County Landfill.

Section 15 – Prohibited and Hazardous Waste Policy

To protect public health, safety, and the environment, certain materials are prohibited from placement in residential solid waste containers.

15.1 Hazardous Waste

Hazardous materials shall not be placed in residential waste containers.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Paints and solvents
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Automotive fluids
- Chemicals
- Batteries
- Propane tanks
- Explosives or flammable materials

Residents must dispose of hazardous materials through authorized hazardous waste programs or approved disposal facilities.

15.2 Construction and Demolition Debris

Waste generated from construction, remodeling, demolition, or repair activities shall not be placed in residential solid waste containers.

Examples include:

- Lumber
- Drywall
- Concrete
- Roofing materials
- Bricks or masonry
- Flooring materials

These materials must be disposed of at an approved landfill or permitted disposal facility.

15.3 Yard Debris

Yard debris including leaves, limbs, grass clippings, and brush shall not be placed in residential waste containers unless otherwise authorized by County policy.

Residents may dispose of yard debris at the Cherokee County Landfill.

15.4 Tires

Automobile, truck, or equipment tires shall not be placed in residential waste containers.

Tires must be disposed of through authorized recycling or disposal programs.

15.5 Appliances and White Goods

Major appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, and water heaters shall not be placed in residential waste containers.

Residents may dispose of these items at the manned Recycling Convenience Center or the Cherokee County Landfill.

15.6 Enforcement

Solid waste collectors may refuse collection of containers that contain prohibited materials.

Repeated violations may result in:

- Refusal of collection service
- Written notice of violation
- Requirement to dispose of waste at an approved facility

Section 16 – Waste Generated by Move-Outs, Evictions, or Property Cleanouts

Cherokee County residential solid waste collection service is intended for routine household waste generated by eligible residences. The County will not collect large quantities of waste resulting from property cleanouts, evictions, or move-out situations.

16.1 Definition of Cleanout Waste

Cleanout waste includes large quantities of waste generated from activities such as:

- Tenant move-outs
- Evictions
- Foreclosures
- Estate cleanouts

- Property cleanups
- Removal of accumulated household contents

Such waste typically includes large volumes of furniture, household goods, and other materials exceeding normal weekly residential waste generation.

16.2 Collection Limitations

Waste generated from move-outs, evictions, or property cleanouts shall not be placed in residential waste containers for routine collection.

The County may refuse collection of waste that exceeds normal residential volumes.

16.3 Responsibility of Property Owners and Landlords

Property owners, landlords, and property managers are responsible for properly disposing of waste generated by:

- Tenant move-outs
- Evictions
- Property cleanouts
- Rental property turnover

Such waste must be disposed of using:

- Private dumpster service
 - Roll-off container service
 - Transport to an approved landfill or disposal facility
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Section 17 – Container Condition and Collection Refusal

Cherokee County reserves the right to refuse collection service when residential solid waste containers are not properly prepared or maintained in accordance with this policy.

Residential collection service is intended for properly contained household waste only.

17.1 Proper Preparation of Waste

All solid waste placed for collection must meet the following requirements:

1. **All waste must be bagged.**
Solid waste must be securely tied in plastic garbage bags prior to placement inside the approved container.
 2. **No Loose Waste.**
Loose trash placed directly into the container without bagging may result in refusal of service.
 3. **Lid Must Close Completely.**
Containers must not be overfilled. The lid must fully close without obstruction.
 4. **No Overflowing Waste.**
Waste extending beyond the rim of the container will not be collected.
 5. **No Waste Placed on Top or Beside Container.**
Items placed outside the container will not be collected unless otherwise authorized.
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17.2 Unsafe or Unsanitary Containers

Collection may be refused if:

- Waste is compacted or jammed in a manner that prevents mechanical emptying
 - Liquids are leaking from the container
 - Hazardous or prohibited materials are visible
 - The container presents a health or safety hazard to collection personnel
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17.3 Warning and Notice Procedure

If a container does not meet the requirements of this policy:

1. The collection crew may leave the container uncollected.
 2. A written notice or tag may be placed on the container explaining the violation.
 3. The resident will be required to correct the issue prior to the next scheduled collection day.
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17.4 Repeated Violations

If violations occur repeatedly, Cherokee County may:

- Issue written warnings
- Require corrective action
- Temporarily suspend collection service
- Require the property owner to utilize private waste collection services

Collection service may be halted until the problem is remedied.

17.5 Restoration of Service

Service will resume once:

- The violation has been corrected, and
- The Solid Waste Department determines compliance has been achieved.

The County reserves the right to inspect containers prior to restoring service.

Section 17.6 – Progressive Enforcement for Collection Violations

To ensure consistent enforcement of residential solid waste collection requirements, Cherokee County will utilize a progressive enforcement process when violations of this policy occur.

First Violation – Warning Notice

For a first violation of container preparation or placement requirements, the County will issue a **warning notice**.

A warning notice may include:

- A tag placed on the container
- Written notification left at the residence
- Electronic notice if available

The notice will identify the violation and provide instructions for correcting the issue prior to the next scheduled collection day.

Second Violation – Written Notice of Noncompliance

If a second violation occurs within a twelve (12) month period, the County may issue a **written notice of noncompliance**.

The written notice may:

- Identify the repeated violation
 - Provide instructions for corrective action
 - Inform the resident that further violations may result in suspension of collection service
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Third Violation – Suspension of Service

If a third violation occurs within a twelve (12) month period, Cherokee County may temporarily **suspend residential solid waste collection service** for the property.

The suspension will remain in effect until the resident:

1. Corrects the violation, and
2. Demonstrates compliance with this policy.

During the suspension period, the resident will be responsible for disposing of waste through an approved convenience center or private waste collection service.

Restoration of Service

Collection service may be restored once the Solid Waste Department determines that the violation has been corrected and the resident agrees to comply with all collection requirements.

The County may require written confirmation of compliance prior to restoring service.

Administrative Authority

The Cherokee County Solid Waste Manager or designee may administer and enforce the provisions of this section and may adopt administrative procedures necessary to implement progressive enforcement.

Violations older than twelve (12) months shall not count toward progressive enforcement.

Section 18 – Right of County to Refuse Unsafe Collections

Cherokee County is committed to providing safe and reliable residential solid waste collection services. However, the County will not require employees to perform collections under conditions that present a risk to employee safety, County equipment, or the public.

The County reserves the right to refuse or delay collection service when unsafe conditions exist.

18.1 Unsafe Conditions

Solid waste collection may be refused when any of the following conditions are present:

- Aggressive or unsecured animals that pose a threat to collection personnel
 - Vehicles blocking access to waste containers
 - Containers located in areas that require personnel to enter unsafe locations
 - Low hanging limbs, power lines, or obstructions that could damage collection equipment
 - Hazardous materials or prohibited waste visible in containers
 - Unsafe road conditions including flooding, ice, mud, or road damage
 - Construction activities that obstruct collection vehicles
 - Any condition that poses a safety hazard to County employees
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18.2 Driver Authority

Collection personnel have the authority to determine when conditions are unsafe for collection.

Drivers may skip or refuse collection at any location where safety hazards are present.

18.3 Correction of Unsafe Conditions

Residents are responsible for correcting unsafe conditions prior to the next scheduled collection day.

Examples of corrective actions may include:

- Securing animals
- Removing vehicles or other obstructions
- Trimming low hanging limbs

- Relocating containers to a safe collection point
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18.4 Weather and Emergency Conditions

Cherokee County may suspend or delay collection services during severe weather events or other emergency situations when conditions make collection unsafe.

Collection service will resume when conditions allow safe operation of collection vehicles.

18.5 Service Resumption

Once unsafe conditions have been corrected, collection service will resume on the next scheduled collection day unless otherwise authorized by the Solid Waste Department.

Section 19 – County Right to Modify Collection Service

Cherokee County reserves the right to modify residential solid waste collection services as necessary to ensure efficient operations, fiscal responsibility, and protection of public health and safety.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as guaranteeing any specific level, frequency, or method of solid waste collection service.

19.1 Modification of Service

The County may modify solid waste collection services at any time, including but not limited to:

- Changes in collection routes or schedules
- Changes in collection days
- Changes in service frequency
- Changes in container requirements
- Implementation of service fees or charges
- Expansion or reduction of services provided
- Modification of eligibility requirements for service

Such modifications may be made as necessary to maintain efficient and cost-effective operations.

19.2 Operational Adjustments

The Solid Waste Department may adjust collection routes, equipment usage, and operational procedures as needed to improve service efficiency or address operational challenges.

19.3 Service Suspension or Discontinuation

Cherokee County reserves the right to suspend or discontinue residential solid waste collection services in certain areas when necessary due to:

- Safety concerns
- Road accessibility limitations
- Operational constraints
- Budgetary considerations
- Policy changes adopted by County Council

Residents may be required to utilize alternative disposal options such as convenience centers or private waste collection services if County collection service is modified or discontinued.

19.4 Administrative Authority

The Cherokee County Solid Waste Collections Manager, under the direction of the Public Works Director, shall have authority to administer and implement this policy and make operational adjustments consistent with the provisions contained herein.

Section 20 – Limitation of Service Obligation

Residential solid waste collection service provided by Cherokee County is a governmental service offered for the convenience and benefit of residents and property owners within the County.

Provision of such service does not create a contractual obligation between Cherokee County and any individual resident, property owner, tenant, or occupant.

Nothing contained in this policy shall be interpreted as guaranteeing uninterrupted service or creating any entitlement to solid waste collection services.

Cherokee County reserves the right to modify, suspend, or discontinue collection services at any time as necessary to protect public safety, maintain efficient operations, comply with applicable law, or implement policy decisions adopted by the County.

Residents and property owners remain responsible for ensuring proper disposal of solid waste in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Authority and Adoption

This policy is adopted by Cherokee County for the administration of residential solid waste collection services. The Solid Waste Collections Manager shall administer and enforce the provisions of this policy under the direction of the Public Works Director.