



City of Wisconsin Rapids
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New Automated Recycling Collection Frequently Asked Questions

What is automated recycling collection service?

Automated residential collection service consists of a specially designed 96-gallon roll cart for recycling. These large roll carts are picked up and emptied by collection vehicles that are equipped with mechanical arms designed to lift the roll carts, empty the contents directly into the collection vehicle, and return them to the ground. The City of Wisconsin Rapids' automated residential collection service will begin on January 1, 2017.

Why are we changing to automated collection?

The City of Wisconsin Rapids will be joining many other cities and counties who have been utilizing automated collection to pick up residential recycling efficiently for years. The use of 96-gallon roll carts and automated collection trucks will provide service that is more efficient, cost effective, and sustainable; additionally, automated collection is much safer for workers and provides a cleaner look in neighborhoods when compared to manual collection.

Can I see the cart sizes before they are delivered?

A sample 96 gallon and 48 gallon cart filled with recyclables is on display in the lobby of City Hall.

Can I request a different size roll cart?

Residents will receive a 96 gallon roll cart for recycling. The size was selected at the recommendation of numerous other municipalities that have had automated recycling for years. There may be situations where a 96 gallon cart is not desirable. While it is not recommended, residents can opt for a 48 gallon cart. To do so at no charge, you can call the street department at 715-421-8218 between June 1 2016, and July 31, 2016. Roll cart size changes after July 31, 2016, will incur a charge equivalent to the cost of a cart.

What are the benefits of using roll carts for the collection of garbage and recycling?

- **Increased convenience for residents:** residents no longer need to take multiple trips to the curb
- **Cleaner neighborhoods:** roll carts create neater and litter-free neighborhoods
- **Increased recycling:** studies show that automated garbage collection programs increase recycling rates significantly
- **Reduces the chances of pests and rodents getting into your trash**

How much will each roll cart hold?

A 96-gallon roll cart holds approximately five times as much as a single 18 gallon recycling container and takes up about the same floor space as two 18 gallon recycling bins.

How do I use the roll carts?

There should be about three feet of clearance around each roll cart placed curbside in order for the trucks to use the mechanical arm. The roll carts should be placed away from the mailbox, parked cars, and low-hanging tree limbs with the handles facing your house.

Carts need to be placed with the lids closed. During the summer months, residents can place the carts in the street with the wheels at the curb. During the winter months, carts should be placed on the ground in the boulevard or at the edge of the driveway.

Where do I place my carts if I have an alleyway?

If you live in a neighborhood with alleyways, place your roll carts in the alley for collection. For better service in the alleyways, please remember to: - Keep three feet of clearance around the roll carts - Place roll carts away from obstructions such as parked cars, low hanging limbs, shrubbery, and basketball hoops - Place the roll carts with the handles facing the house

Where can I store my cart?

City ordinance allows carts to be stored outside, but it must not be in the street yard (between your house or garage and the street). Carts stored outside must be stored with the lids closed to prevent rain water from contaminating the recyclables and adding weight to the carts.

If I move, should I take my roll carts with me?

No. The roll carts must remain at the address where they were delivered. Removing carts from the address they were delivered is considered theft.

Will I have to pick up my new cart?

No. Roll carts will be delivered to each residential address late in 2016.

How do I prepare my recyclables?

Recyclables must be clean, as they have been in the past, but no longer need to be sorted. Paper, cardboard, plastics (#1 through #7), tin, aluminum, and glass should all be placed loose in the cart. All recyclables are to be placed in the cart so the lid can be closed.

