



NATIONAL SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



**Working together for a
Clean and Beautiful Nation:
CITIZENS' GUIDE**

WHAT IS WASTE?

Waste is any unwanted material that we no longer have use for and choose to discard. This includes household waste, green/yard waste, bulky waste and recyclable materials.

We all generate waste daily and we must manage our waste properly. If left lying around carelessly, it can be harmful to the environment and can lead to an outbreak of disease. The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is the agency responsible for the management of solid waste in Jamaica. Guided by the National Solid Waste Act (2001), the Authority oversees four regional bodies MPM, NEPM, SPM and WPM Waste Management Limited which are directly responsible for the collection, transportation, and disposal of solid waste.



MANAGING YOUR DOMESTIC WASTE

Household Waste

Household waste refers to any regularly used waste items found around the home. It can be divided into two categories: organic and inorganic. Household waste must be properly packaged in bags or drums and placed outside your gate for collection. Approximately 70% of household waste can be reused. These include items such as food scraps, yard waste, plastic waste and shredded paper. Your kitchen, green waste and some types of papers can be recycled to produce compost, which is highly beneficial for your plants and gardens.

Garden Waste

Green or garden waste is a form of household waste consisting of grass cuttings, flower cuttings, hedge trimmings and leaves. This waste needs to be separately bagged and put out for collection with the rest of your household waste. Please note that **only two**

(2) bags of green waste will be collected per household on each collection day. The remaining bags must be properly stored until the next collection. Where the cuttings exceed two garbage bags of green waste, householders should consider hiring a van or truck (dependent on the amount of waste) to remove it to the nearest disposal site.



Bulky Waste

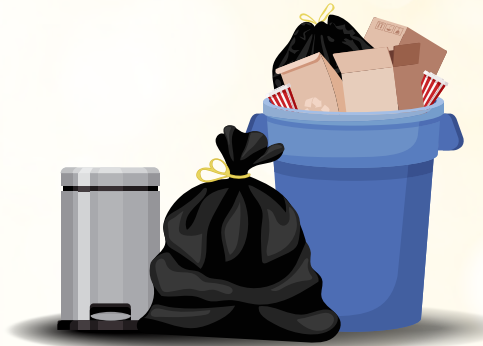
This refers to large items of waste that cannot be placed into the compactor unit. These include branches, old furniture and construction debris. If the NSWMA is to collect these items, special arrangements must be made to have them collected by a tipper truck. This removal will incur a cost following an assessment and quotation by the Authority. The necessary arrangements can be made by calling the NSWMA at 876-448-3220. Alternatively, the householder may make arrangements with a van or truck to transport the waste to the closest disposal site.

Managing Waste At Home

In Jamaica, each person produces approximately 1 kilogram (2 pounds) of waste daily. It is crucial to be mindful of the waste you generate and how you dispose of it. Practising proper waste management at home will help to keep you, your family and our nation healthy. Here are some tips to follow to manage your waste properly:

- Household waste must be properly bagged and tied for collection. Bagged waste can be placed in a container (drum, mesh receptacle or skip).
- Keep meat frozen until your collection day; this minimizes odour and decomposition.
- ***Metals and other heavy objects should not be placed with regular household waste as these items may cause damage to the compactor units.*** Special arrangements must be made with our regional offices or any other registered waste hauler for the collection of bulky waste.
- Garden waste must be bagged separately from regular household waste (2 bags per household).

- Waste can be minimized by creating a compost heap using green cuttings and kitchen waste. Instructions on composting can be viewed at [**www.nswma.gov.jm/composting**](http://www.nswma.gov.jm/composting).
- Your garbage storage receptacle should be placed at the front of the premises where it can be accessed without hindrance by our collection crews on the scheduled collection day. If your waste is not collected as scheduled, please visit our website at [**www.nswma.gov.jm/collection-schedule/**](http://www.nswma.gov.jm/collection-schedule/) to see the revised data. Ensure that the bottom of your waste container is pierced to prevent water from accumulating and allowing mosquitoes to breed. Lids for receptacles are highly recommended.
- Solid waste containers should be structurally sound to prevent injury or pose any threats to the physical safety of our crews.
- Dead animals should not be placed in your waste containers/bins. Contact the NSWMA at: 876-448-3220 for specific disposal guidance.
- Remember to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle your waste.



Illegal Dumping of Solid Waste

Illegal dumping is the act of disposing of solid waste in public spaces such as roadsides, open lots and unauthorised dumping sites. Illegal dumping is not only unattractive, it is also unhealthy. The act of indiscriminate dumping is harmful to the environment and humans, it can also cause loss of lives through the outbreak of disease and flooding.



The National Solid Waste Management Act Fixed Penalty Notice (Litter Ticket) was promulgated on May 1, 2007. Through the Fixed Penalty Notice, the NSWMA has the power to ticket and charge offenders with fines as high as \$10,000.00 per violation.

A list of the offences which attract a ticket/fine and the corresponding penalties are illustrated in the table below:



OFFENCE	PENALTY
Littering or disposing of garbage in any public space	\$2,000.00
Littering or disposing of garbage in or on any premises owned or occupied by another person without the consent of that person	\$5,000.00
Wilfully breaking any bottle or article made of glass in or on any public place without having lawful authority or reasonable excuse to do so	\$5,000.00
Defacement of public property or public space by erecting, displaying, depositing or affixing anything on any building, wall, fence or structure	\$3,000.00
Employing persons to deface public property or public space by erecting, displaying, depositing or affixing anything on any building, wall, fence or structure	\$10,000.00



Help us to keep Jamaica healthy, clean and beautiful by:

- Not littering.
- Reporting illegal dumping.
- Calling us if your garbage has not been collected in three (3) weeks.
- Contacting us if you see dead animals on the roadway.
- Reporting the licence plate numbers of vehicles whose occupants are observed to be dumping.

CONTAINERIZATION AND STORAGE

All solid waste generated from households must be properly containerized before storage and collection. The solid waste should not be in direct contact with the interior of the storage container or receptacle. The use of garbage bags is highly recommended.



STORAGE

Household Storage

Each household must provide a bin and take responsibility for the hygiene and safekeeping of the bin. The receptacle should be either metal or plastic and should not be more than 13.5 kg when empty. The receptacle should be placed at the front of the lot where it can be accessed without hindrances by our collection crews.

Communal Storage

Communal collection points must be clearly marked areas with appropriate receptacles where household waste can be deposited for collection by the waste hauler. The community must ensure that communal receptacles be at least 4.5 metres (14.8 ft) away from waterways such as gullies, drains, rivers, shoreline and wetlands.



The receptacles must be covered and allow for the safe deposit and removal of waste.

The capacity of each receptacle should not be in excess of 6.1 cubic metres (8 cubic yards) with the following dimensions:

Length – 4 ft (1.2m) x Width – 8 ft (2.4 m) x Height – 4 ft (1.2m)

The collection points must:

- a) Be easily accessible for waste collection vehicles; and
- b) Encourage waste separation at source.
- c) Allow for storage of recycling bins or cans in addition to refuse bins (especially where there are enclosures/bin houses).

Public Health

All solid waste containers and receptacles must be structurally sound to safeguard against injuries and should pose no threat to the physical safety of users and collection crews.

PLASTIC WASTE

What is Plastic Waste?

Plastic waste, or plastic pollution, is the accumulation of plastic objects (e.g. plastic bottles) in the earth's environment that adversely affect wildlife, wildlife habitat, and humans. It also refers to the significant amount of plastic that is not recycled and is dumped in our gullies, waterways and shorelines, polluting the environment.

Plastic Recycling

Plastic recycling refers to the process of recovering waste or scrap plastic and reprocessing the materials into functional and useful products. This activity is known as the plastic recycling process. The aim of recycling plastic is to reduce high rates of plastic pollution while reducing the need to make brand-new plastic products. By recycling plastic, we can collectively conserve resources, reduce plastics going to our disposal sites, and prevent them from ending up in unintended destinations such as gullies, rivers, streams, and oceans.



What are the Benefits of Reducing Plastic Waste?

The benefits of reducing plastic consumption include:

1. Reducing pollution by lessening the amount of new raw materials used
2. Saving energy
3. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to climate change
4. Reducing the amount of waste that needs to be recycled or sent to landfills/disposal sites
5. Saving money, since reusable items work out to be cheaper than constantly purchasing more plastic

How Can You Help to Reduce Plastic Waste?



To reduce your output of plastic waste, try switching from plastic materials to paper or glass wherever you can, as these materials are easy to recycle. Reducing (or ideally cutting them out altogether) your consumption of plastic water bottles and straws can also make a huge difference.

The following are some easy switches that you can make in your daily life:

- Carrying a metal water bottle with you to avoid purchasing more plastic bottles
- Using reusable bags when you go shopping, such as canvas tote bags
- Opting for products that use less packaging

Types of Plastic We Recycle in Jamaica

We partner with Recycling Partners of Jamaica (RPJ) for our plastic collection programmes. Plastic products are typically labeled with a number surrounded by the recycling symbol. These numbers and labels identify both the type of substance used to make the plastic and the product's recyclability. Associated with the different types of substances are potential health risks. RPJ accepts PET (1) and HDPE (2) plastics for recycling.

SYMBOL	TYPE OF PLASTIC	USES	RECYCLABILITY	NOTES
	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft drink, water, and other beverage bottles • Detergent and cleaning containers • Peanut butter and other food containers and bottles 	PET is recycled into new bottles, polyester for fabrics and carpet, fill for bumper cars and fiberfill for sleeping bags and jackets.	PET is one of the most easily recycled plastic.
	High-Density Polyethylene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk and water jugs • Laundry detergents • Shampoo bottles • Motor oil • Containers • Some plastic bags 	Clear HDPE containers are easily recycled back into new containers. Coloured HDPE is converted into plastic lumber, lawn and garden edging, pipes, rope, and toys.	HDPE is easily recycled.

NSWMA's Recycling Initiatives :

We have been working hard to remove plastic items from the waste stream via our initiatives islandwide:

MPM Waste Management Limited (Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Catherine, St. Thomas) Kingston & St. Andrew Communities

COMMUNITIES:

1. **Beverly Hills**
2. **Long Mountain**
3. **Pines of Karachi**
4. **Barbican**
5. **Liguanea**
 - Kings Way Manor
6. **Mona**
 - Blue Castle Drive
7. **Hope Pastures**
 - Rosa Manor
8. **Norbrook**
 - Norbrook Spring, Glen Abby, Norbrook on the Fairway

9. **Waterworks**

10. **Cherry Gardens**

- Briarwood Court

11. **Lower Shortwood**

- Shortwood (wider area of Shortwood)

12. **Dillsbury**

13. **Millsborough**

- Pines of Millsborough

14. **Jacks Hill**

15. **Havendale**

16. **Belgrade**

17. **Smokey Vale**

18. **Graham Heights**

- Somerset Homes (Graham Heights)

NEPM Waste Management Limited (St. Ann, St. Mary, Portland)

1. **Hills of Boscobel**

2. **Brooke Green**

3. **Crystal Cove**

4. **Drax Hall Manor**

5. **Buckfield**

6. **Fern Grove**

7. **Mansfield**

8. **Great Pond**

9. **Rio Grande Valley**



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WPM Waste Management Limited (Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland)

1. Meadows of Irwin
2. Montego Bay West Village
3. Ironshore
4. Rhyne Park
5. West Gate Hills
6. Falmouth Gardens
7. Pimento Drive
8. Stonebrook Vista
9. Fairview
10. Coral Gardens
11. Estuary
12. Mango Walk Country Club
13. Fisherman's Beach



COMPOSTING

What is Composting?

Composting is a natural process that occurs when organic matter such as vegetable peelings, fruit waste, leaves, hedges and grass cuttings, decomposes and forms a dark rich substance. This substance is called compost and is a wonderful fertilizer for your soil.

Why Compost?

There are many good reasons to compost. It can reduce your fertiliser cost, allowing you to save money and resources while improving your soil and reducing your environmental impact.

Save Money

- No need to buy chemical fertilizers. Compost is free.
- Compost helps to retain soil moisture so you water less.
- The nutrients from compost are not washed away by rainfall. No waste. No harm to the natural environment.

Save Resources

- Keeps a valuable resource out of the landfill.
- Extend the life of landfills as characterization studies have shown that residential waste consists of approximately 60% compostable materials.
- Use less water since compost helps with moisture retention.
- Reduce civic costs for waste collection and thereby reduce fuel use.

Improve Your Soil

- Compost returns valuable nutrients to the soil to help maintain soil quality and fertility.
- Compost is a mild, slow-release, natural fertilizer that will not burn plants like chemical fertilizers.
- It also improves texture and air circulation for heavier soil and helps to increase the water retention of sandy soil.
- It provides organic matter and nutrients that improve plant growth and yield.

Reduce Your Impact

- Methane gas, a greenhouse gas 21 times more harmful than CO₂ is released when organic materials breakdown under landfill conditions.
- Reduce the impact of chemical fertilizers that run off into our rivers and streams.
- Buried organics can react with metals in the landfill to produce toxic leachate, a potential source of groundwater pollution.

What to Compost?

Good things to compost include vegetable peelings, fruit waste, and grass cuttings. These are fast to break down and provide essential nitrogen and moisture. It is also good to include paper materials such as cardboard egg boxes, shredded paper and leaves.

We encourage you to compost. Click this link to learn more about composting.



www.nswma.gov.jm/backyard-composting-a-guide-for-composting-yard-and-food-waste/



Garden Waste

Green or garden waste is a form of household waste consisting of grass clippings, flower cuttings, hedge trimmings and leaves. We encourage you to compost this waste.

If you insist on discarding your green waste, it must be bagged separately and put out for collection along with the rest of your household waste. ***Be reminded that only two (2) bags of green waste will be collected per household on each collection day.*** The

remaining bags must be properly stored until the next collection day. Please note that garden waste **MUST** be bagged.

Only cuttings that do not obstruct the compaction mechanism of the truck will be collected. Larger cuttings such as tree trunks are **NOT** the responsibility of the Authority and will not be placed in the compactors for regular residential collections as this will damage the compactor.

Bulky Waste

Bulky waste is domestic waste that is too big for your usual bin collection and cannot be placed into our regular compactor units. These include branches, furniture and construction debris.

Special arrangements must be made for these items to be collected using a tipper truck. Removal of bulky waste comes at a cost. The NSWMA provides a quotation after it has conducted an assessment. Our bulky collection service charge depends upon the size of the items to be collected.

Before booking a bulky waste collection for items in good condition, please see if they can be reused by contacting a local charity. Some of these organizations may be able to collect your items for free. Do not dump your bulky waste on roadways, in gullies or any public areas, or on someone else’s property! This is an illegal act and will attract a fine. Dispose of your waste correctly. Dumping trash, commonly called “fly-tipping” can result in you receiving a fixed penalty notice, or facing prosecution.

Call our Head Office for further information on scheduling bulky waste collection: 876-926-5170; 876-448-3220

Street Sweeping & Verges

The NSWMA sweeps main streets in the cities and towns each day. The list of streets that are swept by the NSWMA can be found on our website. For the streets which are not swept by the NSWMA, we are grateful to all those citizens who ensure that the public spaces adjoining their offices/homes are kept clean. A clean environment improves the look of the community and enhances property values.



Where residents plant trees or shrubs on verges, they are reminded to keep the trees and shrubs cut so that they do not interfere with power lines or impede motorists or pedestrians in their use of the roadways or sidewalks. Garbage receptacles should be placed in an area where it does not hinder vehicular and pedestrian traffic or cause nuisance to residents. Verges should never be used for the storage of construction materials or sand and gravel. This can expose you to a fine.



WHAT IS E-WASTE?

Electronic or e-waste refers to any equipment with plugs, cords and electronic components that are at the end of their useful life. These include mobile phones, personal computers, peripherals such as printers and keyboards, televisions, and associated cabling. E-waste has the potential to cause harm to the environment if not disposed of responsibly. These items contain significant amounts of valuable materials that can be recovered and recycled for reuse. They also contain several hazardous substances, such as, arsenic, mercury, lead, cadmium and chromium. These substances are very harmful to the environment and human health and can cause changes in lung function, especially in children; DNA damage; impaired thyroid function and increased risk of some chronic diseases later in life, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Some 75% of toxic chemicals found at disposal facilities can be attributed to electronic waste. When disposed of correctly, most materials and toxic substances can be recovered and reprocessed for reuse. The remaining small portion, about 1% or 200 grams for every tonne, will be disposed of responsibly.

Environmental Impacts:

- Immediate and long-term impacts on human health
- Release of hazardous substances into the environment when e-waste ends up at disposal sites
- Increased demand for the use of raw materials
- Increase in energy required for the production and use of fossil fuels
- Increase in greenhouse gas from the manufacture, use and disposal of e-waste

Steps To Help Reduce E-Waste

- Ask ourselves: 'Do we need the latest technology?'
- Explore the possibility of upgrading or repairing current equipment
- Check if friends, local groups, or charities can use old equipment if still in working order
- When equipment is at the end of its life, dispose of it at a drop-off facility

WHERE TO TAKE E-WASTE / DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Items may be taken to the NSWMA and its regional offices. Please see addresses below:

National Solid Waste Management Authority

61 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10.

Tel: 876-926-5170, **Cell:** 876-448-3220, **Fax:** 876-920-1415

Email: nswamcro@nswma.gov.jm

MPM Waste Management Limited

67A Hagley Park Road, Kingston 10.

Tel: 876-754-5963, **Cell:** 876-448-3301, **Email:** mpmcro@nswma.gov.jm

WPM Waste Management Limited

LOJ Commercial Centre, Unit 1A, Montego Bay, St. James

Tel: 876-953-6281-2, 876-618-2044, **Cell:** 876-482-3741, **Email:** wpmcro@nswma.gov.jm

NEPM Waste Management Limited

2 Stormont Road, New Buckfield, Ocho Rios, St. Ann

Tel: 876-974-4546, 876-974-5465, **Cell:** 876-291-7713, **Email:** nepmcro@nswma.gov.jm

SPM Waste Management Limited

4A Mandeville Plaza, Mandeville, Manchester

Tel: 876-961-0828, 876-962-3270, **Cell:** 876-463-8467, **Email:** spmcro@nswma.gov.jm

Types of E-Waste we collect are:

Computer monitors, personal computer units,
laptops and keyboards,
televisions,
VCR, DVD and Blu-ray players,
video game consoles,
microwaves, toasters, and coffee makers and other small household appliances,
refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers, dishwashers and other large
household appliances,
copiers, scanners and fax machines,
stereos and radios,
clothing irons,
hairdryers and straighteners,
lighting equipment,
electronic tools,
mobile phones,
routers

We are unable to collect:

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Items that are not structurally intact, such as TVs with broken screens
- Automotive and other lead acid batteries

Contact the NSWMA at 876-448-3220 for specific disposal guidance.

TAKING WASTE TO A DISPOSAL SITE

The NSWMA operates eight (8) disposal facilities islandwide.

1. Riverton – Kingston & St. Andrew
2. Church Corner – St. Thomas
3. Tobalski – St. Ann
4. Haddon – St. Ann
5. Martins Hill – Manchester
6. Myersville – St. Elizabeth
7. Retirement – St. James
8. Doctor's Wood – Portland



A tipping fee (gate fee) is required and this is based on the weight of waste per tonne. Once payment is made at any one of our regional offices, a ticket is issued, allowing entry to the specified facility. After disposal, a receipt is generated.

Ask your contacted carrier to show you the receipt to ensure that your waste has not been dumped on the roadside or in a gully. ***Let us all work together for a cleaner nation.***

Please see fees and locations below:

VEHICLE TYPE	CLASS	FEE
Cars, SUVs, Pick-ups, etc.	1	\$ 1,000
Small waste compactors (up to 3 tons), Small tipper trucks (eg. 6 wheels), etc.	2	\$ 1,500
Medium to large waste compactors,		
Large tipper trucks (10+ wheels)	3	\$ 2,000
Waste transfer bins/compactors (20' or longer)	4	\$ 2,500
** Haulers carrying construction soil only are allowed free entry		

Payments for tickets must be made at any of the following offices:

NSWMA Corporate Office

61 Half Way Tree Road

TEL: 876-926-5170, 876-926-8559, 876-618-2043

SPM Waste Management Ltd.

4A Mandeville Plaza, Mandeville, Manchester

TEL: 876-962-3270, 876-625-1687

NEPM Waste Management Ltd.

2 Stormont Road, Ocho Rios, St. Ann

TEL: 876-974-5465

WPM Waste Management Ltd.

A1 LOJ Freeport Commercial Complex, Montego Bay, St. James

TEL: 876-953-6281



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS : MANAGING YOUR COMMERCIAL WASTE

Managing Commercial Waste

Office buildings, schools, stores, hotels, restaurants and other commercial and institutional buildings generate significant amounts of solid waste. The disposal of commercial waste is the responsibility of the business owner. Commercial/business owners have a responsibility to ensure that the waste generated by their business is disposed of properly. They must engage the services of a registered waste hauler to collect and dispose of solid waste at an authorized disposal site. Commercial solid waste must be properly bagged and secured for collection.

Serve You

Not all businesses are the same. The NSWMA conducts a thorough assessment of the volume and type of waste you generate, identifies your specific needs and provides you with a cost-effective solution. We take all necessary steps to ensure the effective and efficient management of solid waste to safeguard public health. The way we do this is with our fleet of compactors, mini compactors, tipper and crane trucks. Whether you need two drums to be collected twice a week or three skips to be collected every week, we can handle it.

Rest Assured

Every business must be able to account for its waste and where it goes. It is a breach of the **NSWM Act** to have an unregistered waste hauler collect and dispose of your garbage. Any breach of the act will attract time in court and/or a fine of up to \$1,000,000. When you are in business with us, you will have peace of mind knowing that you have taken an environmentally conscious step toward managing your waste.

Our Goals

- Develop and maintain a highly efficient, effective and customer-focused commercial waste management service islandwide.
- Ensure that all commercial waste haulers are registered and issued an operating certificate.
- Continuous improvement through training and the use of best practices.

Safety First

The disposal site is a key component to managing solid waste in our country. As such, it must be maintained to meet the highest standards. In recent times, efforts have been made by the Authority to make disposal sites safer by implementing rules that will safeguard against accidents including personal injuries. Security measures have also been increased, therefore children and animals are no longer allowed to enter these sites.

What We Offer

- Solid waste collection of bags, drums and skips.
- Bulky waste collection.
- Removal of derelict vehicles.
- Registration of waste hauling companies.
- Special waste disposal (asbestos, spoilt foods, electronic waste).
- Commercial tipping at our disposal sites.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR COMPANY'S WASTE GOES?

Play Your Part

- Tyres are hazardous waste. Hazardous waste poses substantial or potential threats to public health or the environment.
- You can call the NSWMA for advice on the collection, transportation and disposal of all hazardous materials.
- Illegal dumping of commercial waste is an offence leading to fines of up to one million dollars.
- Littering attracts ticketing. Fines range from \$2,000- \$10,000.



NOTES



Play Your Part!

"Let us all work together for a cleaner nation"



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