

# New Garbage Program Is Not Without Glitches

Some residents get new bin but no service, others misplace carts.

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## NEW GARBAGE DAYS

The map shows the new lineup of residential garbage collection days under the county's new once-a-week garbage collection system. Under the new system, household garbage, recycling and yard waste will be collected on the same day.

Household garbage will be placed in new 95-gallon garbage carts.

Recyclables will be placed in county-issued recycling bins. Yard waste should be bundled, bagged or placed in standard garbage containers.

Polk County officials say the new system will be phased in starting Friday.

SOURCE:  
Republic Services



**BARTOW** | If you live in unincorporated Polk County and haven't received one of the new 95-gallon garbage carts yet, don't worry.

Because the county's contractors have to deliver the new containers to about 140,000 customers, the deliveries are expected to continue until early November, said Brooks Stayer, Polk's director of waste resource management.

About 48,000 already have been delivered, he said.

Although the new once-a-week garbage pickup program was supposed to officially begin Friday, customers who haven't gotten their new containers will continue to receive twice-a-week pickup.

After the new carts are delivered, once-a-week pickup will begin the following week in that area, he said. The correct pickup day will vary by neighborhood. **(See accompanying chart, page B4.)**

However, he said there have been glitches in the system.

"One major glitch is that there's not a master street address system," Stayer said.

The county provides residential garbage collection to multifamily units containing up to 10 units as well as single-family homes.

The available databases don't always list the number of units at each address, he said.

As a result, a handful of homes where carts have been delivered have not gotten garbage service.

He said he expects those problems to be fixed within the next week.

There have been some other problems.

One involves where and how residents need to place the carts so they can be picked up.

The carts need to be at least 5 feet away from mailboxes, utility poles and other stationary objects.

He said the carts will be moved initially to the right location to give homeowners a better idea of where to put their containers for pickup.

Another issue is that residents need to read the instructions that accompany the new garbage carts so they put the cans out on the correct day. And they need to put recycling and yard waste in separate containers on the same day the garbage is picked up.

Stayer said he noticed 10 containers in his own neighborhood this week that were put out Tuesday instead of Friday, the new garbage collection day for that area.

Meanwhile, if residents are having problems with garbage collection service, they can call either Republic Services, the county's residential garbage contractor, at 863-665-1489, or Polk County Waste Resources at 863-284-4319.

Some people have been wondering what to do with their old garbage cans.

There are a couple of options.

One is to continue using it for yard trash pickup.

Another option is to use it as a composting bin to break down yard waste into material to enrich soil in a garden.

Finally, the county will offer a pickup of old garbage cans sometime in November.

Watch for details closer to the time of that collection. Stayer said the unneeded containers will be recycled.

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