

Badgerland Disposal: COVID-19 Service Update (Temporary Suspension of Bulk Pickup)

1 message

Kris Roesken <kris@badgerlanddisposal.com>
To: blsales <sales@badgerlanddisposal.com>

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Dear Valued Municipal Customers,

We hope you, your families and all residents are remaining safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered all aspects of life and business in a very short time. As we stay close to the news, health and government recommendations – we are coming to the realization that it will be some time before life returns to normal.

As a provider of waste disposal and sanitation services, Badgerland Disposal has been deemed an essential services provider and will continue providing services to help keep your community clean without interruption. With that said, our primary focus on the safety of our employees and your residents becomes more important than ever before, and some adjustments will be made.

After careful consideration, along with government, healthcare and industry guidance - Badgerland Disposal has made the difficult decision to cease collection of bulk waste items during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Our employees cannot collect any curbside waste or recycling that is not containerized and placed in the appropriate Badgerland Disposal provided cart. Meaning, loose items outside the cart cannot be collected for COVID-19 safety concerns. We expect this temporary change to continue through the month of May until further notice. We are updating our website, social media pages and phone systems to reflect this important update to help spread the word. We appreciate anything you may be able to do to help notify your residents as well. That said, there are NO changes to our automated cart pickup service for trash and recycling for your residents. Cart contents will continue to be serviced as normal on schedule. Please trust that once we can turn manual bulk service back on, we will communicate accordingly and do our very best to allow residents the chance to 'catch up' for lost time where needed and within reason.

At Badgerland Disposal, safety is of utmost importance. The attached publication from SWANA does a nice job outlining some of the additional risk our frontline employees in the waste industry face during this time, along with necessary precautions that both we and our customers can take to help mitigate spread of the virus. The safety of our employees, our customers and public, override the risk of handling materials outside of containers. We are adjusting daily to mitigate the challenges COVID-19 is creating, which ultimately led to this difficult decision. Rest assured, we are prepared to continue providing our essential services to you and your residents. We will re-evaluate the temporary suspension of this service regularly over the coming weeks and keep you posted.

As a company, we will continue implementing policies and procedures to ensure that our employees are as safe as possible while performing our services and to keep our customers and the public in mind. Thank you for your patience, please feel free to call 608-580-0580 or email townservice@badgerlanddisposal.com for any questions, comments or concerns.

We wish you safety and health, and look forward to a return to normal life and operations as soon as possible. We will continue to be in touch through the coming weeks.

HELP PROTECT WASTE & RECYCLING WORKERS NOW

Solid waste collection is a critical and essential job as part of the response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. You can help protect the health of the men and women who collect your trash and recycling during this vital time. The virus may survive for up to 24 hours on cardboard and two to three days on plastic*. With a few simple steps, you can protect sanitation workers by reducing the possibility they will come into contact with potentially contaminated items.

GARBAGE

- Make sure all your trash is inside a closed plastic bag. If a bin or cart are provided, all materials must fit inside. No bags should be left next to the bins or carts.
- Wash your hands before putting your waste containers out for collection. Sanitize or wipe handles and lids to further reduce exposure.
- **Please do not "spring clean" at this time.** Collection workers are working harder and more carefully right now, sometimes with fewer people. Do not add to the waste by cleaning garages, attics, closets, basements, etc. All material should fit into a container, if provided.

RECYCLING

Recycling remains important during this time. The materials you put out for collection are turned into cardboard boxes, tissues, and paper towels that we need now more than ever.

- Tissues, paper towels, wipes, masks, latex gloves, or any other sanitary or cleaning materials used to protect you from the Coronavirus should NOT go into recycling carts or bins. (These items are never recyclable.) **RECYCLED MATERIALS ARE OFTEN HANDLED BY WORKERS WHEN SORTED LATER.**
- Break down large cardboard boxes and cut them apart, if needed, to fit inside your recycling container. Recyclables that do not fit inside a container should not be put out.
- Empty, rinse, and dry your bottles, cans, and other containers before you recycle them.
- Food and liquids never belong in recycling.

VISITING FACILITIES

If your community still allows members of the public to drop-off waste or recyclables at a facility, please follow all safety policies and procedures required by that facility. These might include not paying with cash, keeping at least 6 feet of distance between you, other customers, and any employees, and unloading in the correct area to avoid requiring staff to handle discarded materials more than necessary. And of course, always follow all safety rules regarding speed limits, cell phone usage, and remaining near/in your vehicle.

OTHER SERVICES

To keep workers safe, minimize their exposure, and handle all of the waste and recycling coming from homes, your waste services provider may make temporary changes, including suspending bulk waste pickup or yard waste collection, and closing drop off centers or other facilities to the general public. These are temporary changes meant to protect the lives of the hard working men and women in the waste and recycling industry.

For more information about how the Coronavirus is impacting waste employees and employers, visit [SWANA.org](https://www.swana.org).

* World Health Organization, Q&A on coronaviruses (COVID-19). [<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>]