Solid Waste Authority is located at:
7501 North Jog Road ~ West Palm Beach, Florida 33412
ARE YOU READY?
The Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has prepared the following guidelines to help you get ready for hurricane season.

For additional information contact:
SWA Customer Information Services
PRE HURRICANE SEASON MAINTENANCE
DECEMBER THROUGH APRIL

All major cutting of vegetation (i.e., tree removal) should be completed long before June 1st, the beginning of hurricane season. We strongly recommend you do all major cutting/tree removal from December 1st through April 30th. SWA arranges for removal of debris from routine yard maintenance (up to 6 cubic yards per week) throughout the year. Whether you are using a private contractor or doing major cutting yourself (removal of trees) and you exceed the 6 cubic yard limit and want all debris removed immediately, you can ask your contractor to include the price of debris removal as part of their service, contact SWA for a contracted special service rate or contact any private hauler listed in the Yellow Pages under “Rubbish Removal” for their removal price. Debris from major cutting or tree removal will need to be transported to the SWA landfill or any SWA permitted facility. There is a fee for disposal.

• Arrange to cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact buildings.

• Have your foliage thinned so wind can flow freely through branches, decreasing the chance that trees/plants will be uprooted.

• Place vegetation material from routine maintenance (up to 6 cubic yards – equivalent to 3 standard size refrigerators) at the curb on your regular scheduled collection day and follow the 6/50 rule (i.e., each piece cannot exceed 50 lbs in weight or 6 ft in length).

• Containerize small pieces of vegetation such as pine needles, leaves, twigs, etc. in bags or cans that weigh less than 50 lbs when full and place at the curb on your scheduled day.

• Clean your yard of any items that could pose a danger to you or your neighbors in hurricane force winds such as old lumber, broken lawn furniture, etc. and place curbside on your bulk waste collection day.
Do not cut down trees or do major yard work.

Once a storm has been named:

- Do not cut down trees or do major yard work.
- Do not begin construction projects that produce debris.
- Once a watch or warning has been issued, do not trim vegetation of any kind.
- Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the collection and disposal processes and there is not enough equipment or manpower to handle the additional material before the storm makes landfall. You could put not only yourself at risk but your neighbors as well.
- Do not take materials to the curb, transfer stations or landfill during a watch or warning period. Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm.
AFTER THE STORM HAS PASSED

Please be patient!

- Keep household garbage, recycling and vegetative and/or construction storm debris in separate piles.

- SWA’s number one priority is the collection of household garbage.

- Securely containerize all household garbage in plastic bags or cans to be placed curbside on your scheduled day.

- Don’t place any debris near or on a fence, mailbox, powerline equipment, poles, transformers, downed electrical wiring, water meters, fire hydrants or storm drains.

- Be prepared to repair possible damage to swale areas from the specialized equipment used to collect storm debris.

- Contact SWA Customer Information Services at 697-2700 or 1-866-792-4636 (toll-free) or visit www.swa.org for updates on your collection services.
Important!

* There is no reimbursement provided to any individual resident or homeowner association who hires a private contractor to remove and dispose of storm related debris.
We ask all residents of the unincorporated County to be our partners in restoring the county to its pre-storm state. Your cooperation and support enables us to complete the entire process in the quickest, safest and most efficient manner possible. We will provide regular updates on the progress of debris collection.

Once a major storm has passed, the SWA’s response plan includes the following tasks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Days to Complete</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assess all areas of unincorporated Palm Beach County to determine amount of damage, debris and hardest hit areas</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set up temporary debris sites</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of specialized storm debris collection equipment</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete collection of storm debris</td>
<td>45-180</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Re-establishing normal household garbage and food waste collection is our first priority.

- It may be 3-6 weeks before the first collection of storm debris (vegetation and building material) is provided.

- **Clean vegetation only** will be collected on the first pass with construction debris and mixed loads (construction debris mixed with vegetation) on subsequent passes.

Please do not call and ask that trucks be pulled from scheduled routes to pick up your own debris first. Deviation from carefully planned routes causes delays in the entire process and creates a burden to those with the greatest need.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. When is hurricane season?
   A. Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th.

Q. I know SWA wants all residents to do regular yard maintenance year round but what is the best time for me to do major cutting and/or tree removal?
   A. Hurricane season has ended by December and even though we have not yet experienced a hurricane in June, it doesn’t mean it won’t happen. All major cutting and/or tree removal should be done between December 1st and April 30th. There should be no major cutting done from June 1st through November 30th.

Q. When preparing for hurricane season, is there a limit to the amount of vegetation I can place at the curb for collection?
   A. YES. Beginning October 1, 2008, yard waste is limited to 6 cubic yards per week. All yard waste, with the exception of tree branches or palm fronds must be containerized in standard 32-50 gallon cans or bags that weigh less than 50 lbs when filled. All branches must be 6 ft or less in length. Residents with more than 6 cubic yards of debris should ask their contractor to include the price of hauling and disposal in their service. Residents doing their own major trimming can contact any private hauler listed in the Yellow Pages under the heading “Rubbish Removal” or contact their franchise hauler directly for their contracted special service fee for hauling and disposal.
Q. Why shouldn’t I do major cutting in May when hurricane season doesn’t officially begin until June 1st?
A. If everyone waited until May, the disposal and collection system would become overburdened making it impossible to process all vegetation before a June hurricane landfall. In hurricane force winds, that excessive debris may then pose a danger not only to you but your neighbors as well.

Q. Does SWA collect my storm debris or is it FEMA that provides the service?
A. Neither. SWA manages Palm Beach County’s storm debris program in accordance with FEMA rules and guidelines. SWA hires private contractors to collect all residential storm debris and FEMA representatives interpret and enforce the rules of collection.

Q. I live in a gated community or on a private road. Will SWA collect my storm debris?
A. If you reside in unincorporated Palm Beach County and receive curbside collection service your storm debris will be collected at the curb. If you reside in a multi-family unit such as a condominium and have containerized (dumpster) service, your community will need to hire a private company at your cost to transport all storm debris to the nearest public road right-of-way for collection.

Q. When can we expect to have the first collection of storm debris?
A. Depending upon the severity of the storm, it may be 3-6 weeks before residents receive their first collection of storm debris.

Q. How soon will my regular garbage be collected following a storm?
A. Garbage collection is our first priority and it will be the first thing collected following a storm’s passing. Residents should place garbage curbside on their regular scheduled collection day.

Q. How many times will a contractor collect debris from my home?
A. Contractors provided a minimum of 3 passes following the storms of 2004 and 2005. The actual number of times can change depending upon the severity of the storm and the amount of damage it leaves behind.
Q.  What will SWA contractors collect on the first pass?
A.  Clean vegetative debris only is collected on the first pass. If your vegetative debris is mixed with construction or other debris, it will not be collected until the final pass. Residents are consistently reminded through numerous media outlets that different types of debris should not be mixed.

Q.  Why do I have to separate my yard waste from my construction debris? Can’t you pick them up in the same truck?
A.  The collection of storm debris can be very costly and keeping debris types separate reduces the overall cost which is a savings to the taxpayer. Processing clean vegetation is much cheaper to process and the material is properly recycled. Vegetation mixed with construction and other debris cannot be recycled or reduced in size. It must therefore be disposed in the landfill at a much higher cost and causes unnecessary use of valuable landfill space.

Q.  The storm debris contractor left a lot of leaves and pine needles when they picked up my large pile. Who is responsible for cleaning that up?
A.  The homeowner is responsible for cleaning up residual debris following the first collection. All leaves, twigs, pine needles etc need to be raked up and containerized in plastic bags for collection on the next pass. Small debris that is not containerized cannot be collected by the heavy equipment used by storm debris contractors.
Q. Will there be more damage to my property from the storm debris collection process?
A. Because of the specialized, heavy duty equipment used to collect as much debris as possible in the shortest amount of time, minor damage to swales and lawns is not uncommon. Residents should be prepared to add fill dirt and sod to the staging area of their yard if this occurs.

Q. If our community does not want to wait for SWA and we hire a private contractor, will we get reimbursed?
A. No! There is no reimbursement provided to any individual or community that hires a private contractor to remove and dispose of storm debris generated from a federally declared natural disaster.

Q. I live in the city limits. Will SWA be picking up my storm debris?
A. No. The SWA does not provide collection services for any of the 37 municipalities in Palm Beach County. Residents within the city limits need to contact their municipal offices directly with questions or concerns. In most cases they should contact the Public Works Department.
Q. How do I dispose of roofing shingles or tiles?
A. Small amounts of roofing shingles or tiles should be containerized by double bagging. Small amounts placed loosely at the curb are impossible to collect mechanically and if collection is attempted the result is usually extensive damage to the lawn, swale or street. If you have a large amount we recommend the rental of a roll-off container or having your roofer include the cost of removal of the shingles in their roof replacement estimate. In many cases, these costs are covered by your insurance company.

Q. I filled my recycling bins with drywall. Why would my hauler keep passing them by instead of emptying them?
A. Your recycling bins should never be used for anything other than recycling. Your recycling collector will not pick up trash and your trash hauler will not touch a recycling bin. Drywall and other small amounts of construction debris should be double bagged under 50 pounds.

Q. My fence blew down. Will SWA pick it up from the curb?
A. Fencing is collected by SWA contractors and should be placed at the curb in a pile separate from vegetative debris and household garbage.

*NOTE: Please don’t do this! Please place bulk debris at the curb in a pile separate from vegetative debris.*
Q. **Will SWA contractors come into my yard to collect my large debris so I don’t have to transport it to the curb?**  
A. FEMA guidelines do not provide for contractors to come into a resident’s yard to collect debris. All debris must be moved curbside or to the nearest public right-of-way.

Q. **Why can’t SWA guarantee a truck will come to pick up my neighbor’s and my large piles of debris when they know a storm is approaching? We could be seriously harmed by flying debris if it isn’t collected!**  
A. The SWA encourages residents to plan well ahead by completing all major cutting by April 30th. If all residents cut large amounts of debris after a storm is nearing landfall, there is not enough manpower, equipment or hours in the day to collect and dispose of it all. The SWA and the haulers also have to prepare their own facilities and equipment to safely weather the approaching storm.

Q. **Will SWA arrange for contractors to collect storm debris from my place of business?**  
A. **No!** Businesses do not receive storm debris collection from SWA’s contractors and must make private arrangements for its removal.
Q.  **Will my stumps also be collected?**  
A. Stumps are collected however they are picked up by a separate contractor and generally collected from the middle to the end of our cleanup efforts.

Q.  **Is there a cut-off date for getting my storm debris curbside?**  
A. There is a cut-off date however we do not know the exact date until collection begins and progress is measured. Generally speaking collection can take anywhere from 45-180 days to complete. Residents should stay tuned to local media for SWA public announcements or visit our website at www.swa.org. Residents may also call SWA Customer Information Services at 561-697-2700 or 1-866-792-4636 (toll-free).
For additional information, contact SWA Customer Information Services at 697-2700 or 1-866-792-4636 (toll-free). Thank you from your partners at the Solid Waste Authority!