



Automated Collection FAQs

What is the schedule for implementation?

Carts will be delivered over four weeks starting in September 2024. Automated curbside collection is expected to begin the week of Oct. 14, 2024.

I live in a condo or apartment building with a private service, does this apply to me?

No. This change only applies to residents who already receive curbside collection service from the City of Marion.

How many carts will be issued to each residence?

Each residential dwelling will be issued a minimum of two carts – one for garbage and one for recycling. Those opting in to the curbside yard waste collection service will be issued a third cart.

What are the cart weight restrictions?

The carts have the following weight restrictions:

- 48 gallon-150 lbs.
- 64 gallon-200 lbs.

Given the increased capacity, residents may see a reduced need to purchase tags for extra garbage.

Will my collection day or time change?

It may. If your collection day changes, you will be notified via mail. Collection times are expected to change. Crews will be stopping at more houses each day, and we expect collection to take all day. Please continue to have all carts at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.

Can I exchange my cart if I need a larger or smaller size?

Residents will have 90 days from the time curbside service begins in October to exchange the cart distributed to them for a more suitable size for no additional charge. After 90 days, a fee will apply.

Can I get more than one garbage cart?

Yes. If your household consistently produces more than one 64-gallon cart of garbage per week, you can add a second for \$7.50 per month by contacting the Public Works Department.

Can I get more than one recycling cart?

Yes. If your household produces more than one 64-gallon cart of recyclables per week, you can add a second for \$5.50 per month by contacting the Public Works Department.

Is there a limit to the number of yard waste carts I can have?

If you opt-in to the service, the initial cart comes with a fee of \$6 per month. There is no limit to the number of additional yard waste carts; however, each additional cart comes with a monthly \$10 fee to cover the collection costs and processing fees for yard waste.

What if I generate more garbage per week than I can put in one garbage cart?

The extra bag tag program will continue. You can use one extra bag per week (with a \$2.50 bag tag affixed), and it must be placed on top of the garbage cart. Households consistently producing more than this may want to consider purchasing an extra cart.

If I place an extra bag on the side of the cart will crews pick it up?

No, the extra bag must have a pre-paid sticker affixed, and the bag must be placed on top of the cart for collection. This will keep the route on time.

What should I do with my old garbage/recycling/yard waste containers?

Residents are encouraged to repurpose or donate their old containers whenever possible. Possible uses include storage for yard and garden equipment, compost, rainwater collection, storage for pet supplies, sports equipment or firewood. We do have a vendor that can recycle the blue recycling bins. The City is developing plans for disposing of old bins and will share the particulars after the new carts are placed in service.

Can we still use paper yard waste bags?

No. When automated collection begins on or about Oct. 14, the City will no longer accept yard waste in paper bags at the curb, unless it's in the City-issued yard waste cart for automated curbside collection. The mechanical arm

can only handle the specialized carts. Yard waste in paper bags should be taken to the Yard Waste Drop-off Facility, which is open 6 days a week. We will continue to offer pre-scheduled brush collection for a fee of \$40 for every 15 minutes at the curb.

What are the cart delivery fees?

Residents will not be charged a cart delivery fee as part of the initial program rollout or within the first 90 days. After that, City staff will swap carts for a \$75 fee. Alternatively, residents will be allowed to drop off/pick up carts at the Public Works Facility for a \$50 fee.

Where should I store the carts?

Store your garbage and recycling carts in your garage, beside your home or in another secured location. Some neighborhood covenants may have more specific rules. City ordinance requires that your cart must be removed from the street on the same day as collection.

What if my cart breaks?

The program policies continue to be developed, but if your issued cart is damaged from normal use, the City of Marion intends to repair or replace the cart.

How far apart do the carts need to be at the curb?

It is important to keep 3 feet of clearance around the cart and have the front of the cart facing the street (wheels and handle of the cart toward the house).

Do I put the carts in the same place at the curb that I currently do?

In most cases, yes. If your collection location changes, you will be notified. It is important to keep 3 feet of clearance around the cart.

When I move, do I take my carts with me?

No. Residents should leave the City-issued cart, in clean condition, with the home. If you are moving to a different address in Marion, there will be a cart there when you arrive. If you requested additional carts from the City, please contact the Public Works Department so they can move the carts to your new address.

Do I need to use a garbage bag inside the cart?

Liners are not required in the cart, but throwing loose garbage into the carts is highly discouraged. Loose trash becomes litter. All garbage placed in the cart should be in tied bags.

What if I am physically unable to wheel a cart to the curb?

If there is a physical or medical reason, special accommodations can be made by calling the Public Works Department at (319) 377-6367. This requires staff approval in alignment with the regulations established in the City code.

Are the carts going to have a unique identifier on them so that we (and you) know which ones are ours?

They do. The carts have RFID technology that enables us to know which address the cart is assigned to. There is also a serial number imprinted on the front of each cart.

The weight of the carts should significantly reduce tipping/blowing on windy days. Residents should not otherwise permanently mark or label the carts.

I'm concerned about my carts getting mixed up with my neighbors and I'd like to identify them in some way.

The carts themselves will have a number stamped on the front. If you must identify yours in another way, use a paint pen to put your address on the inside of each lid. Please remember, the carts are considered City property and the intent is for them to be able to be cleaned/reissued to different addresses as appropriate.

Will glass be recycled at the curb with the new program?

No. Residents should NOT put glass in their recycling bin as it can contaminate an entire load. It can be taken to the Recycling Drop-Off Facility at 195 35th Street in Marion, the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency on County Home Road or placed in the garbage.

Why won't you pick up glass at the curb?

Glass is recycled differently from your usual curbside recycling and becomes very dangerous when co-mingled with other recyclable materials. As the project team looked into this as an option, there were a few modifications to equipment that would have been required, resulting in additional costs to the program. Furthermore, through conversations with comparable communities, the team learned that some are exploring eliminating this curbside service. Glass recycling will continue to be offered free of charge at the City's Recycling Drop-Off Facility on 35th Street or at the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency on County Home Road.

Will the hours of the Recycling Drop-Off Facility change?

Not at this time. The Recycling Drop-Off Facility at 195 35th Street will continue to be open for Marion residents from noon-5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. on Saturdays. With residents having access to the larger curbside carts, we hope to gain a better understanding of usage patterns after the automated collection program is in place.

What about leaves? Do you plan to add curbside leaf collection as part of this program?

You are welcome to rake or mulch/mow over your leaves and place them in your yard waste cart. Additional yard waste carts can also be purchased (no limit) for \$10 per month per cart. At this time Marion does not have plans to implement a loose-leaf vacuum collection program, but will likely consider it in the future.

Where can I learn more?

Find FAQs and learn more about the process: online cityofmarion.org/automatedcollection email automatedcollection@cityofmarion.org call (319) 200-1272 or (319) 377-6367.