

SWA says “Prepare your yard now for hurricane season”

Hurricane season preparations can help minimize property damage and make our communities safer. Since hurricane season starts June 1, now is the time to complete major vegetation trimming. Once a storm threatens, it’s too late to trim trees.

To ensure your yard is as prepared as possible:

- Cut back all trees and weak branches that could come in contact with buildings.
- Have foliage thinned so wind can flow freely through branches, decreasing the chance that trees or plants will be uprooted.
- 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 them curbside on your bulk waste collection day. You can find your bulk waste collection day in the Recyclopedia at www.swa.org
- Place vegetative material from routine maintenance at the curb on your regularly scheduled collection day. Unincorporated Palm Beach County residents may place up to 6 cubic yards – equivalent to 3 standard size refrigerators – at the curb. Follow the 6/50 rule: each piece of vegetation cannot exceed 6 ft. in length or 50 lbs. in weight.

Residents living within city boundaries should call their local municipality for their bulk collection guidelines. Check the SWA website for municipal contact information.

If contracting lawn care services for major vegetation trimming, make sure contractors include the price of debris removal as part of their service. Debris from major cutting or tree removal will need to be transported to an SWA facility, and there will be a fee for this disposal.

Last hurricane season, Hurricane Irma left almost 3 million cubic yards of vegetative debris on the ground. It took three months and cost more than \$30 million to collect and dispose of it all.

SWA offers tips to help Palm Beach County clean up quickly after a severe storm.

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County offers these tips to home owners when putting their debris piles at the curb after a severe storm/hurricane:

Residents are encouraged to pile yard waste, such as branches, limbs and tree trunks (less than 6 feet in length) at the curb as soon as they can.

However, yard waste debris in plastic bags should not be placed on these large piles. Any yard waste placed in bags and cans at the curb will be picked up by regular curbside collection haulers, along with small vegetation piles that are 4 cubic yards or less.

Emergency debris collection teams only remove the large piles of yard waste on the first pass. Construction debris, such as fencing, will be removed during the next pass. Mixed yard waste with construction debris or other trash will be collected last.

Waste and debris should continue to be separated into three different piles at the curb:

1. Put garbage and recyclables out by 6 a.m. on your regularly scheduled day. These will be picked up first to remove any spoiled food.
2. Put all vegetation only in a second pile.
3. And, put all other construction storm debris in a third pile.

Be sure to keep these three piles separate and away from:

- Fences
- Fire hydrants
- Mailboxes
- Power line equipment, such as poles, transformers, downed electrical wiring
- Canal rights of way (don't throw it on a canal bank)
- Storm drains
- Water meters

For additional information on debris collection in unincorporated parts of the county, contact SWA Customer Information Services at 561-697-2700 or 866-792-4636 (toll-free), or visit www.SWA.org/Hurricane.

As a hurricane threatens, limit yard work to what is necessary

Even if Palm Beach County is not yet in the cone of uncertainty, the week before an expected named storm is NOT the time to do major yard work or begin construction projects.

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County asks all county residents to:

- Refrain from cutting down whole trees or doing major yard or construction projects until after the storm passes
- Not place any debris at the curb after a Hurricane Watch or Hurricane Warning is issued

Excess yard waste placed curbside may put a strain on collection and disposal efforts, and large piles of new vegetation trimming and construction debris may be left at the curb should the storm impact our area. 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.

When a state of emergency has been declared for any Florida county, it is done to ensure "that local governments have ample time, resources and flexibility to get prepared for this dangerous storm and are not hindered, delayed or prevented from taking all necessary actions to keep communities safe."

The SWA works with the PBC Emergency Operations Center to monitor the storm's potential path to make a determination on any facility closures or cancelled garbage, recyclables and yard waste collections in the unincorporated parts of the county. But, we need the help of every resident for the efficient removal of debris leading up to and after the storm.

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Post-Storm Clean Up

SWA.org/Hurricane

561-697-2700



household
garbage
& recycling

vegetation
yard waste

home
construction
debris

SEPARATE YOUR WASTE!



Recycle Right

-in Palm Beach County-



Trimmin' O' the Trees

Keep a year-round tree
trimming plan and reduce
hurricane damage

SWA.org

