

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Are You Mistakenly Setting Your Garbage Cart Out Wrong?

Your local garbage and recycling collection crews service around 6,000 homes a day, so every stop with a set out issue adds extra time and effort to an already long day. **By avoiding these common set out mistakes listed below, you can help operations run smoother and more efficiently for the men and women on your collection crews.**

- **Blocked Garbage Carts** – **Make sure your garbage cart is set out with at least 2 feet of clearance on all sides.** Common obstructions include other garbage carts, recycle bins, yard waste containers, official yellow bags, light poles, and mailboxes. When garbage carts are hard to access, it makes it challenging for the collection crews to safely and efficiently use the automated service arm to empty them.



Leave at least 2 feet of clearance around your cart on all sides

- **Garbage Bags Piled on Top or Against Carts** – **All garbage should be placed inside your cart with the lid closed.** Official yellow garbage bags should be set out at least 2 feet to either side of the cart. Placing bags on or around the cart can cause garbage spillage when the cart gets emptied using the automated arm on the truck.

- **Recyclables Placed in Wrong Bins** – **Be sure to separate paper materials into the orange bin and bottles & cans into the blue bin.** Stacking your blue bin on top of your orange bin is preferable to prevent litter on the streets and keep paper materials dry in case of rain. Misplaced recyclables can slow down the collection crew's work.



- **Improperly Prepared Boxes** – **Ensure that cardboard boxes are empty, flattened into pieces no larger than 4 feet by 4 feet, and placed in, under, or next to your orange recycle bin for collection.** Dispose of foam blocks or plastic packing materials with your garbage, as these items are not recyclable. Failing to prepare cardboard boxes correctly negatively impacts the collection crew's efficiency.

For more information on the City of Gainesville's residential curbside set-out guidelines, visit [gainesvillefl.gov/Recycle](https://gainesvillefl.gov/Recycle).

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