

West Nile Virus & Mosquito Control

The Tulsa Health Department operates a mosquito surveillance program using special mosquito traps throughout Tulsa County to test for West Nile virus in the community. It also works to control mosquito populations during warm months, typically May through September, using a spray program. You may see the spraying trucks in your neighborhood. However, it's important to remember that Tulsa County residents are the first line of defense against mosquitoes.

West Nile virus is a flu-like virus that can be spread through infected mosquitoes. Anyone living in an area where West Nile virus is present in mosquitoes can get infected; however, most people who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. When symptoms do occur they usually appear 3 to 14 days after you are bitten by an infected mosquito. The symptoms include sudden onset of fever, headache, dizziness, and muscle weakness. Long-lasting complications can include difficulty concentrating, migraine headaches, extreme muscle weakness and tremors, and paralysis. Contact your health care provider if you develop symptoms after suffering mosquito bites within the previous two weeks.

The best protection against West Nile virus is to prevent mosquitoes in your area! Mosquitoes need standing water in which to breed, so it's important to make every effort to remove standing water in the area where you live. You can help reduce the mosquito population by following this checklist:

- ◆ Dump out all standing water. This includes tires, flower pots, toys, bird baths, buckets, etc.
- ◆ Keep swimming pools clean and free of stagnant water.
- ◆ Change the water in birdbaths and flower pots at least two times per week.
- ◆ Refresh your pet's water bowl daily.
- ◆ Eliminate tall grass, weeds, vegetation and other mosquito resting places.
- ◆ Fill in holes or eliminate the water sources where mosquitoes may be breeding.
- ◆ Encourage neighbors to eliminate mosquito breeding and resting sites on their property.
- ◆ Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens in good repair.
- ◆ Clean clogged gutters and downspouts.
- ◆ Screen rain barrels, openings to water tanks and any other water storage containers.

Mosquito Hotline (918) 595-4219

Call to place a complaint about mosquitoes in your area or visit www.tulsa-health.org to submit an online Environmental Complaint Form. More information regarding mosquito control and protection is also available on the website.



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Mulch-Processing Site Moved to 2100 N. 145th East Avenue

The City of Tulsa's mulch processing site has moved.

For many years Tulsans have been able to deliver grass clippings, tree trimmings and similar organic yard waste to a facility on 56th Street North. That yard waste processing operation was moved in June to the Tulsa Land Reclamation Site at **2100 N. 145th East Ave.**

Hours at the new site will be the same as at the old site. It will be open seven days per week, from **7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, except on City-observed holidays.

Tree branches, grass clippings and leaves are accepted at the site.

A current driver's license with a Tulsa address must be presented to site monitors in order to waive charges. Commercial and Non-Tulsa Residents can also drop off yard waste for a small fee

Besides being able to dispose of yard waste, Tulsans can also pick up FREE wood chips to use as mulch on lawns, in gardens and for other landscaping needs. Mulch helps control weed and plant growth without herbicides and helps conserve soil moisture and moderate soil temperature changes.

Free firewood and a firewood cutting area are available at the site.



BACK TO BASICS

A guide to residential recycling.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Curbside recycling is part of the City of Tulsa's trash service. Two carts are provided to each single-family household: a gray cart for trash and a blue cart for recycling.

THROW AWAY LESS – PAY LESS*

Up to 80 percent of your household trash is recyclable. The City of Tulsa's pay as you throw program encourages recycling. The more you recycle, the less trash you'll have. Less trash equals a smaller gray trash cart, resulting in a lower out-of-pocket expense for your trash service.

Household trash and recyclables are collected by different trucks on your regular collection day. Trash from the gray cart is taken to Tulsa's waste-to-energy plant and the recycling from the blue cart is taken to a recycling facility where it can be sorted and sold for reuse in recycled products.

IT'S EASY TO RECYCLE

Place recyclable items loose in the blue cart. You may mix your recyclables together and the facility will sort through them.

It is important to keep the recycling cart free of "contaminants" – food waste and items not shown or listed in this recycling guide.

* CARTS MUST BE SET OUT BEFORE 6 A.M. ON YOUR COLLECTION DAY



WHAT YOU MAY PUT IN YOUR BLUE CART

- Aluminum beverage cans and rinsed steel food containers
- White or colored paper including: office paper and junk mail, newspapers, cards, envelopes, manila folders, beer and soda pop cartons, brown paper bags, magazines, cereal boxes, other cardboard packaging and corrugated boxes that can be flattened to fit in your cart
- Plastic water, soda, milk and detergent bottles – all colors accepted
- Glass beverage bottles and rinsed food jars – all colors accepted. Throw the metal and plastic lids into the trash

QUESTIONS?

Call our Customer Care Center at (918) 596-9777 or visit the Tulsa Recycles website at: www.tulsarecycles.com