

**HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**COMMISSIONERS COURT ORDER**

Procedure: SWDP  
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Date Authorized: 06/01/2021  
Supersedes: 02/03/2016

**SOLID WASTE COLLECTION/RECOVERY CENTER STATION**  
**RULES & GUIDELINES**

The Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County has ordered a Solid Waste Disposal program and has adopted these Solid Waste Citizen Collection/Recovery Center Station Rules and Guidelines in order to safeguard the public health; to ensure the safety of county employees; to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the collection/recovery center stations; to ensure that only residential waste from rural and unincorporated area county residents is disposed of at the collection/recovery center stations and to control and monitor proper access to the collection/recovery center stations.

Illegally dumped trash is a huge problem for our communities impacting water flow on our drainage systems, waterways and serve as breeding grounds for rodents and dangerous mosquitos that carry harmful diseases. As per Health and Safety Section 365.012, a person commits an offense and may be convicted of illegal dumping, if the person disposes, allows, receives, transports, or permits the disposal of solid waste at a place that is not an approved solid waste disposal site. Not only does it contaminate your community, but it also carries a fine and jail time if convicted.

To report illegal dumping please call 205-7000

**GENERAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION/RECOVERY CENTER STATION RULES**

- The Solid Waste Collection/Recovery Center Stations will accept authorized solid waste generated by the rural and unincorporated resident living within Hidalgo County as described under these rules
- Rural boundaries are areas not within city limits.
- All trash must be bagged
- The operator of any vehicle transporting authorized solid waste to the collection/recovery center station shall, as condition of use, present evidence and/or answer any reasonable questions concerning the nature and place of origin of that material as the sanitation attendant in charge may request.
- The Attendant in Charge shall be obeyed at all times and all authorized solid wastes must be deposited in appropriate designated areas and in accordance with the collection/recovery center station operator's instructions.
- The County of Hidalgo reserves the right to reject any solid wastes, which it considers to be detrimental to the operation of the collection/recovery center station, or contrary to these rules.
- The collection/recovery center stations will only admit vehicles with a valid collection/recovery center station permit affixed on the vehicle windshield.
- At the time of submitting an application to obtain a permit, the applicant shall provide proof of a valid rural and unincorporated service eligibility address such as an electric bill, water bill, natural gas bill, telephone bill, cable bill or driver's license that specifically identifies the service address you are seeking a solid waste permit for.
- Permits will be issued only to those applicants who comply with these rules. The ownership of real property is not the determining factor as to who may receive a permit.
- During inclement weather or other emergency conditions, the transfer stations may be closed. Please contact your precinct office via phone, website or social media to confirm availability.

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**PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR**

Disposal of solid waste at any of the Hidalgo County Solid Waste Citizen Collection/Recovery Center Stations without a valid solid waste permit properly affixed to the vehicle windshield is a violation of established rules and guidelines and may result in civil penalties. Transfer Station permit holders and their passengers are required to and will conduct themselves in a civil manner. Rude, offensive, disorderly, obscene, slanderous, defamatory, disruptive and profane language or violent statements toward other visitants and county sanitation/recovery center station employees will not be tolerated. Courteous conduct and behavior is required at all times.

Complaints will be reported to law enforcement personnel and your solid waste permit may be denied.

**PERMITS**

**Vehicles Permits**

A permit is required for use of all Hidalgo County Solid Waste Citizen Collection/Recovery Center Stations. Permits must prominently be affixed on the user's vehicle windshield and must be visible when within the collection/recovery center station. All vehicles entering the collection/recovery center station must display a valid permit issued to that specific vehicle and vehicle owner. All permits MUST have a permit application filled out in full before a permit is issued. The collection/recovery center station permits are not valid until affixed to the permitted vehicle. Permit applications and renewals may be obtained at the designated Precinct Offices.

- ONLY Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated area residents will qualify for the permit.
- All users are required to obtain a permit prior to use of the collection station/recovery center.
- Collection station/recovery center permits are not transferable.
- Vehicle permit will cost \$25 and will be valid for ninety (90) days from the date of purchase.
- Additional vehicle permits may be obtained at the same cost of \$25 for ninety (90) days. (ex: one vehicle, one permit = \$25. Two vehicles, two permits = \$50).
- Proof of Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated residency address is required. Eligible forms include an electric bill, water bill, natural gas bill, telephone bill or driver's license that specifically identifies the permit holder to the service address you are seeking a solid waste permit for. Limit one (1) vehicle per permit.
- Permit applications and renewals may be obtained at the designated Precinct Offices.

**Vehicle Permit with Double Axle Trailer**

A permit authorizing the use of a double axle trailer is required for use of all Hidalgo County Solid Waste Citizen Collection/Recovery Center Stations. Permits must be prominently affixed on the user's vehicle windshield and must be visible when entering the collection/recovery center station. All vehicles entering the collection station/recovery center with a double-axle trailer must display a valid double-axle trailer permit issued to that specific vehicle and vehicle owner. All double-axle permits MUST have a permit application filed out in full before a permit is issued. Double-axle trailer permits are not valid until affixed to the permitted vehicle. Double-axle trailer permit applications may be obtained at the designated Precinct Offices. ONLY Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated area residents will qualify for the double-axle trailer permit.

- All users are required to obtain a permit prior to use of the collection/recovery center station.
- The collection/recovery center station double-axle trailer permit is not transferable.
- A double-axle trailer permit will cost \$50 and will be good for ninety (90) days from the date of purchase.

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- Proof of Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated residency address is required. Eligible forms include an electric bill, water bill, natural gas bill, telephone bill or driver's license that specifically identifies the permit holder to the service address you are seeking a double-axle trailer permit for.
- Use of double-axle trailer visits will be subject to limits and locations set by each respective Precinct.
- Maximum double-axle trailer size 16 feet long x 6 ½ feet wide x 1 ½ feet tall. Modified trailers beyond these dimensions will not be admitted.

### LOAD VOLUME

6 ½  
Feet  
Wide

- All trash must be **BAGGED**

### One-time Single Use - Vehicle Permit

A one-time single use permit may be purchased for rural residents that may not need a standard 3 month vehicle permit. All vehicles entering the collection/recovery center station with a one-time single use permit must turn in the permit issued to that specific vehicle and vehicle owner. All one-time permits MUST have a permit application filled out in full before a permit is issued. One-time use permits are only valid for the permitted vehicle identified on the application. One-time single use permit applications may be obtained at the designated Precinct Offices. The permit must be used at the time of purchase. All one time permits will be collected upon use.

- ONLY Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated area residents will qualify for the one-time single use vehicle permit
- All users are required to obtain a permit prior to use of the collection station.
- Citizen Collection / Recovery Center Station one-time permits are not transferable.
- Each single use (one time) permit will cost \$10 and will be good for the same day purchased only.
- Proof of Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated residency address is required. Eligible forms include an electric bill, water bill, natural gas bill, telephone bill or driver's license that specifically identifies the permit holder to the service address you are seeking a one-time single use vehicle permit for. Limit one (1) vehicle (cars, truck, van, suv and station wagon) per permit.
- All trash must be **BAGGED**

### One-Time Single Use - Double Axle Trailer Permit

A one-time single use double axle trailer permit may be purchased for rural residents that may not need a standard 3 month double axle vehicle permit. All vehicles entering the collection/recovery center station with a one-time single use double axle trailer permit must turn in the permit issued to that specific vehicle and vehicle owner. All one-time single use permits MUST have a permit application filled out in full before a permit is issued. One-time single use double axle permits are only valid for the permitted vehicle identified on the application.

One-time single use double axle permit applications may be obtained at the designated Precinct Offices. The permit must be used at the time of purchase. All one time permits will be collected upon use.

- ONLY Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated area residents will qualify for the one-time single use double axle permit.

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- All users are required to obtain a permit prior to use of the collection station.
- Citizen Collection / Recovery Center Station one-time single use double-axle permits are not transferable.
- Each one-time single use double-axle permit will cost \$20 and will be good for seven days from date of purchase.
- Proof of Hidalgo County rural and unincorporated residency address is required. Eligible forms include an electric bill, water bill, natural gas bill, telephone bill or driver's license that specifically identifies the permit holder to the service address you are seeking the one-time single use double-axle trailer permit for.

6 ½  
Feet  
Wide

### LOAD VOLUME

- All trash must be **BAGGED**.
- All one-time single use permits (vehicle or double axle trailer) will be collected upon use.

### Replacement Permits

One replacement permit will be re-issued free of charge and be valid for the duration of the original permit. Individuals requesting a replacement permit will need to complete a Permit Replacement Form prior to receiving a replacement. All replacement permit requests afterwards will be assessed at the original permit cost.

### PAYMENT METHODS

- Cash
- Money Orders
- Credit or Debit Cards (\$2.50 convenience fee)
- Checks

### SCREENING

- Rural residents will be screened to ensure they possess a valid permit for the vehicle present.
- Disposal of solid waste will be limited to once per day per vehicle.
- Incoming trash will be visually inspected to deter unauthorized waste.
- No vehicle will be allowed entry to the collection/recovery center station without a valid permit affixed on the authorized vehicle windshield or with a valid single one-time use permit.
- All one-time single use permits (vehicle or double-axle trailer) will be collected upon use.
- Items containing refrigerants will only be accepted if freon has been removed.
- Frequency of the person's use of the collection/recovery center stations will be closely monitored to ensure compliance of set rules.

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- The collection/recovery center stations are self-service. Solid waste personnel are NOT authorized to assist in unloading any items for disposal and can only monitor to ensure safety.

### **AUTHORIZED SOLID WASTE**

#### **Residential Waste**

- Residential waste includes normal household refuse/garbage (paper, plastics, cans, food and vegetable scraps)
- All household trash must be bagged

#### **Tires**

- Limit four (4) passenger and light truck tires per month from rural unincorporated residential customers.

#### **Brush & Yard Waste at Brush Collection Sites**

- Leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings and brush.
- Each precinct will have a designated collection/recovery center station that will allow brush or yard waste.
- Brush should be cut in 3 to 4 foot lengths and securely tied.

#### **Bulky Items**

- No more than 2 appliances per visit
- Furniture: sofas, love seats, chairs, tables, desks, shelves, mattress/box springs, bed frames, and dressers.
- Appliances: washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators w/o freon, water heaters, ovens and other electronics.
- Freon must be removed from any refrigerated items prior to bringing items to the recovery center.
- Toilets, sinks, tubs, doors and ladders.
- Exercise equipment, bicycles, lawnmowers, carpets, padding (one room only and must be rolled and tied)
- Outdoor patio furniture, tables and bbq grills w/o propane tank and kiddie pools

#### **Scrap Metal**

- Metal that can be sold as scrap. Must be disposed on the authorized bins

### **NON-AUTHORIZED SOLID WASTE**

#### **Bulky Items**

- Outdoor play systems

#### **Commercial waste**

- Contractor or commercial waste/building materials.
- Demolition waste such as brick, concrete, shingles, wood, gypsum, and sheet rock.

#### **Automotive Parts**

- Car batteries, fenders, vehicle doors, body and frame parts, engines, transmissions; as these items should be disposed of in a salvage yard.
- Commercial truck/tractor tires

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**Scrap Metal - Non Authorized**

- Any salvage metal made of galvanized or other non-recyclable metal products will not be allowed for disposal. (Ex: Chain link fencing, wiring or similar metals)

**Hazardous waste**

- Pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, chemicals and cleaners
- Paint thinners, toxins, poisons, asbestos, and petroleum products such as gas, oil and kerosene
- Drums, Paint Cans, liquids or solvents of any kinds
- Items with Freon (Refrigerators, freezers, A/C Units)
- Dead animals.

**ALLOWABLE VEHICLES**

- Passenger cars including station wagons and sport utility vehicles, vans, pick-up trucks and small single axle utility trailers not to exceed 5' x 8' with permit or valid one-time single use permit.
- Double axle utility trailers not to exceed 16'L x 6 1/2 W x 1 1/2 H with valid permit or one-time single use permit.

**VEHICLES NOT ALLOWED**

- Dump trucks, Non-Governmental Box Trucks, Rack Body Trucks, Large Trailers exceeding authorized dimensions and large trucks (those with a cargo area exceeding manufacturer's full size pick-up truck body).
- Double axle trailers will not be accepted unless valid permit or single use one time permit is issued and displayed
- No ATV's, UTV's or Off Road motorized vehicles.

**LOCAL DECLARED STATE OF DISASTER EVENTS**

- The Solid Waste Citizen Collection Station Rules and Guidelines may be modified or waived upon approval by the local government only after a Local State of Disaster has been declared by Hidalgo County .

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**NOTICE: DISPOSING OR ALLOWING OR PERMITTING THE DISPOSAL OF LITER OR OTHER SOLID WASTE AT A PLACE THAT IS NOT AN APPROVED DISPOSAL FACILITY OR ; RECEIVING LITTER OR OTHER SOLID WASTE FOR DISPOSAL AT A PLACE THAT IS NOT AN APPROVED DISPOSAL FACILITY OR; TRANSPORTING LITTER OR OTHER SOLID WASTE TO A PLACE THAT IS NOT AN APPROVED FACILITY FOR DISPOSAL OR; DISPOSING SOLID WASTE OR LITTER IN A DUMPSTER THAT IS CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE ELSE WITHOUT PERMISSION, IS A VIOLATION OF LAW AND OFFENDERS SHALL BE PROSECUTED(Sub. Ch. B, Ch. 365 Health & SafetyCode).**