



sanitation

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DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION PUBLISHES FINAL RULES TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE HOURS TRASH WILL SIT ON NYC STREETS

New Rules Go Into Effect April 1, 2023; Will End City's "Five O'Clock Shadow" of Trash Bags

NEW YORK – As part of the Adams administration's ongoing commitment to cleaning up New York City's streets and strengthening the city's economic recovery, the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) today announced the final publication of new rules to limit the number of hours trash, recycling, and organics will sit on New York City sidewalks by adjusting the time of day those materials may be placed on the curb. This makes good on a commitment made in mid-October, and comes after a 30-day public comment period and public hearing.

Currently, trash, recycling, and organics may be placed on the curb after 4:00 PM the night before collection — the earliest of any major American city — meaning that in many neighborhoods these items can sit out for more than 14 hours, including during the evening pedestrian rush hour. These new rules, which go into effect April 1, 2023, will decrease the amount of time waste is left on the curb, diminishing the eyesore of black bags, reducing trash for rats, and improving cleanliness — and ultimately boosting the city's recovery.

“Six weeks ago, Mayor Adams and I stood with civic leaders in announcing a plan to finally undo a relic of the 1970s - the piles of black bags on our curbs all afternoon,” said **DSNY Commissioner Jessica Tisch**. “I want to thank everyone who provided public comment, and I want to warn the rats: this spring, the early-rat dinner special is over.”

Under the new rules, slated to go into effect on April 1, 2023, residential buildings have up to three options, each of which would substantially decrease the amount of time waste is on the curb:

- Place waste out after 6:00 PM in a secure container,
 - Bundled cardboard, which does not attract rats, may be placed next to the container at this time - a change DSNY made to the rule as a result of public comment.
- Place trash out after 8:00 PM if putting bags directly on the curb, or
- If a building has nine or more residential units, the property owner may opt in to a 4:00 – 7:00 AM set-out window instead. The opt-in period will run for the month of January each year, allowing DSNY to design quick and efficient routes that take effect April 1.

Taken together, this means waste will sit on the curb for a fraction of the time it does currently. These rules apply to recycling and curbside composting as well as regular refuse.

This announcement also includes new clarified rules for commercial establishments, which do not receive service from DSNY but rather from private waste haulers. Businesses may choose from one of the following options:

- Place waste out after 8:00 PM if putting bags directly on the curb or
- Place waste out one hour before closing in a secure container. Bundled cardboard may go next to the container.

In addition to these new proposed rules, DSNY is doing more of its collection on the midnight shift than pre-pandemic, further reducing the amount of time trash sits on the street. Overnight collection now accounts for approximately one quarter of all collection operations — roughly 5 million pounds per night.

The full text of the new rules may be read [here](#).

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City clean, safe, and healthy by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 705 salt spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets. The Department runs a portfolio of programs and facilities to help New Yorkers more sustainably manage waste.