



# sanitation

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## **Major Changes Coming to City Landscape; Food-Related Businesses Now Required to Use Lidded Containers to Keep the Rats OUT**

*Additionally, all chain businesses to be covered effective September 5th*

Two new rules for businesses will keep the City clean and get trash off our streets with the first going into effect today, Tuesday, August 1. Food-related businesses are now required to use containers when setting their waste at the curb for collection – a major change to our public space that will fight rats.

Restaurants, delis, bodegas, grocery stores, caterers, and other food-related businesses can no longer place trash out for collection in black bags directly on the curb, which leak food waste and attract rats, and instead must use rigid, lidded containers when setting out trash or food waste. The requirement does not apply to other recyclables or to businesses that have waste collected from a loading dock.

“Plastic bags awaiting collection on the curb create dirty conditions and are an all-you-can-eat buffet for rats that have easy access to their next meal. Putting this material in containers, with lids, will create a cleaner City – the kind all New Yorkers expect and deserve,” said Jessica Tisch, Commissioner, New York City Department of Sanitation.

The warning period for this rule lasts until September 1, 2023, after which fines may be issued for violations. In the four months since the Department of Sanitation changed the time that waste can go at the curb, DSNY has issued over 55,000 warnings and summonses for improper set-out, getting results for clean streets.

As a result of the ongoing incentivization and requirement of waste containerization, New Yorkers are having fewer interactions with rats, with complaints down 20% across the City this summer.

The second rule, starting September 5th, extends containerization requirements to all chain businesses with five or more locations in New York City, regardless of what they sell, as part of the plan to containerize waste.

Taken together, this means that four million pounds of trash per day – from 25% of all businesses – will be in containers and off our curbs.

**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, attacking the scourge of illegal dumping, 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, 705 salt spreaders, and several dozen bike lane operations machines. Under the Adams Administration, the Department is aggressively cleaning more parts of the City than ever before, including over 1,000 long-ignored areas spread across every neighborhood, as well as cleaning the highways and managing graffiti removal.