



## Storm-Related Debris Removal FAQs

Revised October 11, 2024

### HURRICANE SEASON 2024

#### **When will storm-related debris collection occur?**

It will depend on the severity of the storm. After a storm, the impacts can be devastating and widespread. Please be patient and monitor local media, county's website [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep) and Collier County Facebook for updates and more details.

#### **When is the last day to set out hurricane debris?**

There will be a last day to set out debris however we do not know the exact date until collection begins and progress is measured. Please follow local media, county's website [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep) and Collier County Facebook for updates and more details for City of Marco Island, Everglades City and unincorporated Collier County.

#### **How should storm related debris be sorted?**

Storm debris must be separated into the following categories:

1. Large Appliances
2. Construction Debris
3. Vegetative Debris
4. Electronics
5. Household Hazardous Waste

See diagram below or at [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep) webpage.





## SEPARATING STORM DEBRIS

### PLACE ALL STORM DEBRIS CURBSIDE

#### 1 LARGE APPLIANCES

Refrigerator, washer/dryer, air conditioner, stove, water heater, dishwasher. REMOVE PERISHABLES AND DOORS.

#### 2 CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

Building materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, plumbing. DO NOT BAG.

#### 3 VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

Tree branches, leaves, logs, plants. DO NOT BAG.

#### 4 ELECTRONICS

Television, computer, stereo, phone, DVD player.

#### 5 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Batteries, paint, oil, pesticides, pool chemicals, cleaning supplies will be collected separately or can be brought to a County Drop-Off Center.

#### REGULAR HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE

Regular household garbage and recycling will be collected separately from storm debris.

CHECK FOR UPDATES AT  
[colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep)



### Where do you place debris?

All debris must be placed curbside, in the right of way, without blocking the roadway or storm drains. Debris placed near, on or under trees, poles, utility boxes, mailboxes, fire hydrants and/or meters cannot be collected by mechanical claw. If you do not have a sidewalk, place debris at the edge of your property line (i.e., right of way). If you live in a cul-de-sac, the claw truck may not fit to collect your debris. The debris hauler will return with a smaller piece of equipment to remove your debris.

### Can we place debris in plastic bags?

**ONLY** hurricane damaged drywall and insulation can be placed in **CLEAR** bags. All other debris must be placed loose at the curb. Normal household food garbage must follow normal collection guidelines.



**Who will collect my storm debris?**

The County contracts with private contractors before hurricane season for these services. The contractor's trucks have a mechanical claw to collect storm debris that is placed in public rights of way.

**Will Collier County contractors come into my yard to collect my large debris, so I don't have to transport it to the curb?**

No, all debris must be moved curbside or to the nearest public right of way.

**What if I have a small amount of hurricane yard waste?**

If your yard waste is less than 50 pounds – please prepare it in accordance with normal curbside collection guidelines: cut branches to 4 feet in length and 4 inches in diameter, and bundle with twine or place in paper bag or 45-gallon personal container. For more information on how to conform yard waste visit [colliercountyfl.gov/collection](http://colliercountyfl.gov/collection).

**How many times will the trucks pick up on my street?**

The number of pick-ups depends on the severity of the storm and the damage caused from the storm. However, we do not know the exact number until collection begins and progress is measured.

**What happens if the debris hauler damaged my property?**

Please contact 239-252-2380 to report damage caused by the County's debris removal contractor(s). Only debris that is placed in the right of way can be collected. Avoid placing debris on driveways or other areas that might be susceptible to inadvertent damage by the mechanical claw.

**The storm debris contractor left a lot of leaves and pine needles when they picked up my large pile. Who is responsible for cleaning that up?**

The homeowner is responsible for cleaning up residual debris following the collection. All small leaves, twigs, pine needles, etc., need to be raked up and containerized for collection on the next pass. Small debris that is not containerized cannot be collected by the heavy equipment (mechanical claw) used by storm debris contractor.



**What is not considered eligible hurricane debris?**

The county's contractors can only remove hurricane generated debris. Reconstruction, renovation, repair work and lot-clearing debris will not be collected and must be disposed of by the resident or their contractor. Any non-hurricane generated yard waste and bulky waste will be collected with regular curbside services.

**What is the difference between storm-related debris and household garbage?**

Storm-related debris includes any debris that poses a threat to the life, safety and health of the public, including vegetative waste that was generated by the storm. It may include roofing, plumbing, wood, fencing, flooring, furniture, carpet, or wallboard that had to be removed from your home due to flooding or other damage. Storm-related yard waste must be kept separate from other items placed out for collection. Household garbage and any solid waste from Collier County will be hauled by one of the County's Franchisee's, Waste Management (Naples area) or Waste Pro (Immokalee and Ave Maria). Please call (239) 252-2380.

**What type of debris collection vehicle will collect storm debris on cul-de-sac?**

The debris collection contractor has access to many types of debris collection trucks and equipment to accommodate the collection on small and narrow streets throughout the county. If your debris pile was not collected, it could be that a smaller piece of equipment is needed to be utilized to avoid damage, such as low hanging tree limbs or power lines or for maneuverability of a smaller cul-de-sac.

**What is considered non-eligible yard waste?**

Non-storm related yard debris collected from land clearing, vacant property, unimproved property, commercial or lawn maintenance is considered non-eligible.

Lawn maintenance debris must be prepared as per regular guidelines and set out for regularly scheduled pick up or taken to a yard waste processing facility for proper disposal. Disposal fees will apply. The County will not reimburse for any disposal fees.

Any lawn service or landscape contractors that is land clearing or providing lawn maintenance on private property will not be allowed to dispose of the non-storm-related yard debris on the public right of way. Storm-related debris must be set curbside in accordance with guidelines.

**Will Collier County arrange for contractors to collect storm debris from commercial/business properties?**

No. Commercial/businesses properties do not receive storm debris collection from Collier County debris removal contractors and must make private arrangements for its removal.



**Why do I have to separate my yard waste from my construction debris? Can't you pick them up in the same truck?**

The collection of storm debris can be very costly and keeping debris types separate reduces the overall cost and increases efficiency. Processing clean vegetation is much cheaper to process, and the material is properly recycled. Vegetation mixed with construction and other debris cannot be recycled or reduced in size. It must therefore be disposed in the landfill at a much higher cost and causes unnecessary use of valuable landfill space.

**I have a contractor removing storm-related damage from my yard or house, can they take it to the landfill?**

Yes, contractors must pay the disposal fee when dropping off debris at the County's landfill. Contractors are not permitted to utilize the County's temporary debris management sites. Please call 239-252-2380 for with any questions. Note that Collier County has Franchisee areas and haulers that are not permitted to haul municipal solid waste (MSW) without a "Self-Hauler Permit" issued by the County. MSW must be hauled by one of the County's Franchisee's, Waste Management (Naples area) or Waste Pro (Immokalee and Ave Maria).

## **PRIVATE or GATED PROPERTY DEBRIS REMOVAL**

**What is required from private or gated communities to commence storm debris collection through the county?**

Private or gated communities may elect to have debris removed by a contractor and should check with their insurance company. For the county's contractor to remove eligible debris from private or gated communities requires pre-approval from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the following must occur:

1. Legal Authority and Indemnification

Private or gated communities must submit a Right-of-Entry (ROE) form to Collier County. The ROE requires the property manager or president's signature of authority for the community. This ROE indemnifies the County for debris removal and the undersigned must provide the private or gated community's insurance. The form can be requested by emailing [hurricanepdr@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:hurricanepdr@colliercountyfl.gov). To see if your community has signed a ROE, please go to [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep).



## 2. Public Interest

The disaster-generated debris has been deemed to constitute an immediate threat to life, public health or safety, or to the economic recovery of the community at large.

### **How soon will the work be done for private or gated communities?**

Eligible private property debris removal is a long process and requires pre-approval from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Signing the Right-of-Entry form does not guarantee debris removal services; it merely fulfills one portion of FEMA requirements to remove debris from private communities.

### **Can private or gated communities that paid to have storm-related debris removed from the community get reimbursement from FEMA?**

No. The County will not reimburse for debris collected. These entities are responsible for contacting their insurance or other state or federal programs that may be available for reimbursement. It is recommended to check with your insurance company.

### **Where can we obtain the Right-of-Entry (ROE) form?**

The ROE can be obtained by visiting [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricaneprep) or emailing [hurricanepdr@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:hurricanepdr@colliercountyfl.gov).

### **What is the purpose of the Right-of-Entry (ROE) and Hold Harmless Agreement (HHA)?**

The ROE grants right of property access and entry to the County, its agencies, contractors and subcontractors for inspecting, removing and clearing eligible storm-generated debris. The HOA releases the County, State, their agencies, contractors, and subcontractors for damage of any type, whatsoever, either to the property or persons situated thereon and releases, discharges and waives any action, either legal or equitable which might arise out of activities on the property during property inspection and/or debris removal.

### **Why is a Right-of-Entry (ROE) needed?**

Gaining legal access to private property is an important aspect required by FEMA.

### **Can we place debris in a common area of private/gated community?**

Please check with Collier County Debris team at [hurricanepdr@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:hurricanepdr@colliercountyfl.gov) or by calling 239-252-2380 for the latest information. Debris generated from common areas such as community owned and maintained areas, including but not limited to recreational and golf courses are expected to maintain debris removal insurance and will not be collected by the County contractors.



**What is NOT eligible under the private property debris removal program?**

Debris removal from vacant lots, unimproved property, commercial property and unused or unmaintained areas. Including debris on agricultural lands used for crops or livestock.

**Can commercial properties have debris removed?**

No, FEMA expects commercial enterprises to retain insurance that covers debris removal. The county cannot remove debris generated from commercial properties such as golf courses, apartments, businesses and mobile homes

## COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Commercial Property- Debris generated from commercial properties, such as industrial parks, golf courses, cemeteries, apartments, condominiums, and trailer parks are the responsibility of the owner, and are expected to retain insurance that covers debris removal.

