



01 POLLUTANT DISPOSAL

TULSANS BRINGING ITEMS TO FACILITY

The City of Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility, 4502 S. Galveston Ave., has been open since January 2016 and Tulsans are taking advantage of this year-round service to dispose of household pollutants for free.

During these first 18 months of operation, 2,337 area residents brought 143,039 pounds of pollutants to the facility, averaging over 61 pounds per customer. With usage increasing, the Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility is meeting its goal of discouraging disposal of household pollutants into local streams, storm drains, refuse and recycling systems, and the sanitary sewer.

Recently a “Swap Shop” has been added at the facility, allowing customers to shop from new or lightly used household products for free. Customers may take up to five items. This service allows customers to use products for their intended purpose and saves disposal costs at the facility.

The Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility is open by appointment two days a week, Wednesday and Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tulsa residents can call (918) 591-4325 to schedule an appointment. For more information about the facility, including what items are and are not accepted, visit www.cityoftulsa.org/resourcerecovery

CITY LIFE

SEPTEMBER 2017

IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

<p>01 DISPOSE OF POLLUTANTS</p> <p>Bring household chemicals for disposal and shop at the new “Swap Shop.”</p>	<p>02 PREPAREDNESS MONTH</p> <p>Make a plan for your home or business in case of floods or other disasters.</p>
<p>03 DUMPSTERS DELIVERED</p> <p>Registered neighborhood associations can request dumpsters for cleanups.</p>	<p>04 SAVE OUR STREAMS</p> <p>Never flush medications down toilets: Trace amounts get into our streams.</p>

+ PLUS: KEEP FATS, OIL, GREASE OUT OF SEWERS.

WWW.CITYOFTULSA.ORG | TULSA311@CITYOFTULSA.ORG | CALL 311

02 PREPAREDNESS IS KEY

PLAN FOR FLOODS OR OTHER DISASTERS

September is National Preparedness Month, a good time to make an emergency plan to protect your home or business in case of a flood or other disaster. It’s wise to assemble an emergency kit and have it accessible if you need to evacuate. For more information about an emergency plan and emergency kit, visit: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan and www.ready.gov/build-a-kit

Be alert when storms approach. Turn on a radio or television and follow news updates. Listen for emergency sirens. In Tulsa, the flood siren will be an alternating high-low tone; the tornado siren will be a steady, one-note tone.

Safety is the most important consideration. Flood waters can rise rapidly, so you should be prepared to evacuate before the water reaches your property. If you’re caught in the house by floodwater, move to the second floor or to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight and portable radio with you. Wait for help.

If your property has flooded at least twice within any 10-year period, resulting in two or more claims of \$1,000 or more from the National Flood Insurance Program, your property may be classified as a Repetitive Loss Property. If properties near you have flooded frequently, you may live in a Repetitive Loss Area. To find out if your property is in a floodplain, check maps available at <http://maps.cityoftulsa.org/floodplains/>

City stormwater engineers are available to visit your property and give recommendations on how to improve drainage. They also will explain why you need flood insurance. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), properties in a high-risk flood zone have a 26 percent chance of flooding during the life of a 30-year mortgage. The City of Tulsa has a 40 percent discount on flood insurance for properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area, and a 10 percent discount for other properties.

Sometimes storm damage does not receive a federal disaster declaration and public assistance may not be available. The City of Tulsa has an acquisition program which uses hazard mitigation grant funding from FEMA to purchase repetitive loss properties. For more information, contact the Customer Care Center at 311 or (918) 596-7777 (outside city limits).



03 DUMPSTERS AVAILABLE

REQUEST FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

The City of Tulsa's Neighborhood Dumpster Program is a service available to registered neighborhood associations to perform neighborhood clean-up activities. Participating groups can request two 30-yard containers every six months to dispose of eligible household items.

The City of Tulsa recently purchased more dumpsters and an additional hauling vehicle for this program. This will significantly reduce wait times for dumpsters and allow more areas of the City to be served.

Dumpsters are for use at residential sites and cannot be used for commercial purposes (for example, to clean out rental properties). Certain items cannot be placed in the dumpsters, such as limbs and other tree debris, grass clippings, Freon bearing appliances, car parts or tires, air conditioners, roofing materials, whole buildings, sheds or garages.

Do not overfill dumpsters. Dumpsters should be no more than three-fourths (3/4) full, so that they are easily transported to the landfill. Items cannot be placed on the ground around the dumpster.

If your neighborhood association is interested in participating in this program, the neighborhood leader may call 311.

TRAP THE GREASE

AVOID COSTLY HOME PLUMBING BILLS

Fats, oils, and grease aren't just bad for your arteries; they are bad for the sewers, too. When food scraps are washed down the drain, the fat and grease from the food can build up in your sewer lines, causing raw sewage to back up into homes, businesses, and the environment. Anything with a fat content, including dairy products, salad dressings, and cooking oils, can contribute to grease-clogged pipes. Avoid costly home plumbing bills by following these three simple steps:

1. **TRAP** bacon grease or meat drippings in a sealable container and toss in the trash.
2. **SCRAPE** all food scraps in the compost or trash.
3. **WIPE** all greasy, oily, creamy, or buttery food residues from dishes before you wash them.

**Running hot water and soap down the drain does not prevent grease build-up and blockages.*

You also can recycle your liquid cooking oils at the City's Household Pollutant Collection Facility. Call (918) 591-4325 to arrange an appointment.

For more information on proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease, visit: www.trapthegreasetulsa.com

Despite all these preventive measures, if you see, hear or smell something you think might be a sewage overflow or backup, report it immediately by calling (918) 586-6999. The City of Tulsa has a customer service employee available around the clock and, if needed, a work crew is available to inspect and take action.



04 SAVE OUR STREAMS

NEVER FLUSH MEDS DOWN TOILETS

Proper disposal of unused medications benefits people's health and the environment. Medications should not be left around the house, available for possible misuse by family members.

Also, medications should not be flushed down toilets. Our wastewater treatment plants are unable to remove the chemicals found in medications, so trace amounts of these drugs are discharged into local streams. Long-term exposure to these chemicals can harm aquatic wildlife.

Tulsa participates in two National Drug Take Back Events each year: spring and fall. The next event is scheduled for Oct. 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Locations were not determined at the time of publication. Check local news for information.

Other options for properly disposing of prescription drugs include:

- **Drop off medications at one of the following stations, any time of the year, Monday through Friday.**
 - Tulsa Police Gilcrease Division, 3436 N. Delaware Ave., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Tulsa Police Mingo Valley Division, 10122 E. 11th St., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Tulsa Police Riverside Division, 7515 S. Riverside Dr., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Tulsa County Sheriff – 303 W. First St., 8 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
- **Incineration through the City of Tulsa residential trash service (the grey bin)**