

Gray Cart Monitoring Process

Second gray carts are only issued to households with consistently high volumes of non-recyclable trash. Households are allowed 2 gray carts maximum.

Before you request monitoring for a second gray cart, please check that your household is placing all acceptable recyclables in your blue cart and green waste in your green cart and compacting the trash going in the gray cart as much as possible.

Acceptable recyclables that go in the blue cart include:

- Newspaper
- Corrugated cardboard (no flat board)
- Office paper
- Paper bags
- Glass bottles and jars (empty and clean – no lids)
- All metal cans (including canned good cans)
- All plastic containers with a number 1 or 2 recycling symbol (empty and clean – no lids)



Green waste that goes in the green cart includes:

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Branches
- Palm fronds
- Christmas trees

To confirm your household generates high volumes of non-recyclable trash beyond what the single gray refuse cart can handle, the City must monitor your trash.

Here's how monitoring works: After being approved for monitoring, you will be added to the waitlist for your region. When it is your turn for monitoring, a refuse supervisor will call you to begin monitoring. After receiving the call, continue to fill your gray cart as normal and you will be instructed to place any excess trash in bags a few feet away from your gray cart on your refuse collection day.

A refuse supervisor will check both the trash inside and outside the cart for three things:

1. To ensure the trash in the cart is properly compacted and the extra bags will not fit in the cart.
2. To ensure you generated a sufficient amount of trash.
3. To ensure there are no recyclables or green waste in your trash.

Your extra bags of trash will be collected during monitoring. If you do not produce sufficient extra trash weekly, you will not pass monitoring and will not receive an additional gray cart. To ensure that you consistently produce sufficient extra trash, monitoring may take up to eight weeks to complete once the process starts. If even a single recyclable or green waste item is found in your trash by the monitoring supervisor, you will not pass monitoring and will be denied a second gray cart. The monitoring process is strict to encourage the proper use of all three carts.

If you do not pass monitoring, your extra trash will go uncollected and you will receive a denial letter in the mail. You will not be able to request monitoring again for one year following denial. No exceptions will be made.

Any extra trash can be taken to the City's free convenience centers and transfer stations at any time, but please do not use these options during monitoring. Find drop off locations and hours of operation at www.opala.org.

If you meet the qualifications and would like to request monitoring, please call 768-3200.

