



# City News

From Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz

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## We all need to get a handle on new trash routines

Budget cuts have changed some parts of garbage collection but not all. Curbside pickup will continue, with one black barrel of garbage collected every week. If you recycle, you'll still get your purple barrel emptied every two weeks. No changes.

Annual hazardous material pickups for items such as paint and batteries will be like 2009 too. Call (800) 449-7587 to get a special bag and inventory list along with a collection date.

What *has* changed is overflow trash, the stuff you set beside your black barrel. This includes lawn clippings, bundles of branches, trash bags etc. and will be collected every three weeks instead of weekly. In Southwest Denver, the next overflow trash pickup dates are the weeks of Feb. 22, March 15, April 5 and 26, and May 17.

If you ordinarily have a lot of overflow trash, consider these ideas:

- Recycle. Call 311 and ask for a purple barrel. Separating recyclables can increase your trash capacity. If you already recycle, ask for a *second* purple barrel.
- Keep grass and clippings on the lawn. Grass-cycling adds nutrients and moisture and reduces waste.
- Share barrels. Politely ask a neighbor with an unfilled barrel if you can add trash.

Large item pick-up will now be every 9 weeks. To get rid of usable items faster, consider donating them to charity.

I asked Public Works for more overflow trash pickups during lawn and leaf seasons but they declined, saying \$500,000 in budget cuts makes it impossible. It's ironic how often the administration has asked council for \$500,000 for pet projects unrelated to basic services. I usually vote against such siphoning from the general fund; covering basics comes first for me.

Look for your trash schedule at [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org). Just click on Trash Pickup at the bottom of the page, then My Trash Schedule on the left. Enter your address. It's easy.