

IS YOUR YARD READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

Regarding the cutting of vegetation, garbage and storm debris there are steps that should be taken **Before, During and After** a storm. Please clip and save this information so that you can be prepared.

PRE-HURRICANE MAINTENANCE

- Cut back all trees and weak branches that contact buildings
- Thin your foliage so wind can flow freely through branches, decreasing the chance that trees/plants will be uprooted.
- Place tree trimmings at the curb on your regular scheduled collection day and follow the 6/40 rule (i.e., each piece cannot exceed 6 feet in length or 40 lbs. in weight and must be bundled or containerized.
- Containerize your tree trimmings such as pine needles, leaves, twigs, etc. in paper bags or cans that weigh less than 40 lbs. (no lawn trimmings in plastic bags please).
- Clean your yard of any items that could become missiles in a storm such as old lumber, broken lawn furniture, etc. and place items curbside on your regular collection day.

ONCE A STORM HAS BEEN NAMED

- Do not cut down trees or do any major yard work.
- Do not begin construction projects that produce debris.
- Once a Hurricane Watch or Warning is issued, do not trim vegetation of any kind. Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal collection process and there is not enough equipment or manpower to collect the additional material once the storm makes landfall.
- Do not place materials at the curb or take materials to the landfill or a transfer facility during a Watch or Warning period. Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm.
- For information on the status of our facilities, residents should consult the www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov website or monitor local Radio stations or the County CC-TV television station for service updates.

AFTER THE STORM HAS PASSED

- Keep household garbage, recycling and vegetation/storm debris separate. This is extremely important!
- Securely containerize all household garbage in plastic bags or cans and place at the curb on your scheduled collection day.
- Please Be Patient! Following a storm, Solid Waste Resource's # 1 priority is the collection of household garbage. Uncollected garbage attracts pests and contributes to the spread of disease. Garbage should never be mixed with storm debris/vegetation, which can wait.

STORM DEBRIS

- Never place any debris near or on a fence, mailbox, power line equipment, water hydrants, poles, transformers, downed wires, water meters, or storm drains. Hidden electrical hazards can injure or kill collection personnel.
- There is no reimbursement provided to any individual resident or homeowner association who hires a private contractor to remove and dispose of storm related debris.
- All residential debris generated from storm events, construction, re-modeling or demolition activity is NOT INCLUDED as part of residential sanitation district curb services.