



MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW)

CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA • UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

1300 White Street • Key West, Florida 33040

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Any questions, call the City Solid Waste Coordinator at 305-809-3776.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), commonly known as trash or garbage, refers to everyday items discarded by the public, primarily from households, businesses, and institutions. It consists of non-hazardous solid materials, including packaging, food waste, yard maintenance vegetative waste, clothing, plastics, glass, furniture, appliances, etc. MSW can be disposed of in a landfill, incinerated at a waste-to-energy facility, or processed at a recycling facility.

The City of Key West Transfer Station, located at 161 Toppino Industrial Drive on Rockland Key (MM9), accepts an average of 50,000 tons of MSW annually. Due to the limited size of the city facility, MSW must be presorted and off-loaded in one of five (5) areas: garbage, single stream recyclables, yard waste, metals/appliances or waste tires. Recycling makes up approximately 10,000 tons or 20%, of the MSW brought into the facility that is properly segregated and then shipped to the mainland for processing instead of deposited in a landfill. City of Key West garbage is hauled up to a landfill in Okeechobee and recycling is hauled up to a recycling facility in Pembroke Pines.

Ways to Reduce MSW

- Reduce use of single-use plastics (say no when you can)
- Donate goods that are still usable to various organizations
- Invest in sustainable goods and items
- Dispose of items properly to reduce contamination of recyclable goods
- Purchase secondhand items to divert them from entering landfills
- Go paperless to reduce the carbon footprint
- Talk trash and sustainability with family and peers

Citizen Impact

Sustainable solid waste management starts with the decisions we make every single day. Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills is a community-wide effort and responsibility. The city encourages residents to donate or repurpose usable items before disposing of them. Making thoughtful purchases and incorporating sustainable practices will help reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill. Living out the *reduce, reuse, recycle* saying is another way to divert individual waste that generates more MSW. Creating or participating in composting is another way to divert waste that is sent to the landfill. We need the help of citizens to *Keep Key West Beautiful* so all can enjoy this wonderful community for years to come.