



Utilities Connection: New Schedules – Trash, Grappler and Recycling pick-up on the same day starting in January

By Esmeralda Almanza

Start looking for the bright yellow sticker fixed to the top of your trash cart, announcing your new pick up day, effective the beginning of the year. No more running around trying to figure out which bin to put at the curb! Starting in January, trash, grappler and recycling pick-up days will be one and the same for all residents.

“Many residents asked for same day pickup. We heard you... and after careful planning, concluded we would be able to reconfigure routes and schedules and do just that, starting in January,” says Klaus Kemmer, Solid Waste Administrator for Las Cruces Utilities. “We want our neighborhoods to be clean, and we want pickup to be convenient for residents.”



Trash, grappler, and recycling pickup will synchronize starting January 2, 2012. Trash will be collected once a week; recycling will be collected every-other-week on the same day. The Grappler will come the same day, every other week, to pick up items too large to fit in your trash bin.

LAS CRUCES UTILITIES • SOLID WASTE SECTION

Effective January 2, 2012

Your solid waste (TRASH) collection day will be every

MONDAY

Please have your items at the curb by 6:00 A.M.
Please allow a 5-foot clearance between containers, grappler items, vehicles, fences, walls, mail boxes, etc.



In preparation for the new trash schedules, Las Cruces Utilities is delivering annual bin hangers with solid waste collection service information, as well as bright yellow stickers for your trash container announcing your solid waste collection day.

“We’ve been pasting easy-to-see stickers since last week, and will continue to do so until the end of December,” says Jim Swartz, Solid Waste Residential Supervisor. Almost 30,000 homes will have a new pickup day. “These routes will make it much easier for residents to remember

what day their pickup is,” says Swartz.

Residents should review their yellow stickers to see which day and date their pick-up starts. All bins should be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the new pick-up day, and removed by 7:00 pm that night.

The City of Las Cruces provides 96-gallon containers to customers who are signed up for solid waste services. Then, a one-person collection vehicle picks up waste in your area once a week on a designated pick-up day.

Because of the way the collection vehicle operates it is important to follow these guidelines... leave enough room for the machine to operate – at least a 5-foot clearance from any other object, including other trash or recycling bins.

“We even ask residents to leave space between their trash bin and their recycling bin. Our collection machines need room for the arm to wrap around the bin and lift it,” explains Apolinar Garcia, Solid Waste Residential Employee.

TRASH TIPS: Containers must be placed on a flat surface in the street, not on the sidewalk. The handles and wheels must face away from the street. All trash must be bagged or tied without overfilling the bin. The lid must be close so there is no trash flying away.



RECYCLING TIPS: Recyclables are different. Please do NOT bag your recyclables. Recyclables are processed at a rate of 25 tons an hour at the Friedman Recycling Plant, and there is not time for bags to be opened to expose recyclables.

GRAPPLER TIPS: Please keep your items bagged or tied. The Grappler can pick up one pile of large residential items per pick up day, and the amount cannot exceed one level 1/2 ton pickup truck load, for the free service. Larger loads will be charged based on the amount of trash picked up. Commercial buildings or apartments with dumpsters will also incur a fee, which will be added to the utility bill.

Enjoy your new pickup day!

You can reach Las Cruces Utilities at 528-3511 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Utilities Connection is submitted by Suzanne Michaels Communications, Education and Public Outreach for Las Cruces Utilities: GAS – WATER – WASTEWATER – SOLID WASTE services for almost 100,000 Las Cruces residents.