

For Your Reference

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

Pinellas County Public Works:

(727) 464-8900

Evacuation Zone Information:

(727) 464-3800

(727) 453-3150 Interactive Voice Response System

Citizens Information Center (C.I.C.)

• This number is activated only during an emergency.

(727) 464-4333

Website Information

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

www.pinellascounty.org/publicworks

www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste

Municipal/City Debris Management

Belleair, Town of	588-3769, ext. 401 or 402
Belleair Beach, City of	595-4646
Belleair Bluffs, City of	572-8779
Belleair Shore, Town of	593-9296
Clearwater, City of	562-4920
Dunedin, City of	298-3215
Gulfport, City of	893-1089
Indian Rocks Beach, City of	595-6889
Indian Shores, Town of	595-4020
Kenneth City	498-8948
Largo, City of	587-6760
Madeira Beach, City of	391-1611
North Redington Beach, Town of	391-4848
Oldsmar, City of	813-749-1262 or 1266
Pinellas Park, City of	541-0711
Redington Beach, Town of	572-6800
Redington Shores, Town of	397-5538
Safety Harbor, City of	724-1550
St. Pete Beach, City of	572-6800
St. Petersburg, City of	893-7398
Seminole, City of	572-8779
South Pasadena, City of	572-6800
Tarpon Springs, City of	942-5610
Treasure Island, City of	547-4575, ext. 253



In 2004, Florida experienced a record-breaking four major hurricanes in one season. As a result of these storms, Pinellas County Solid Waste collected and disposed of 300,000 cubic yards (an equivalent of 1 football field piled 47 ft. high) of residential vegetative yard debris!

This guide provides useful tips on preparing for a hurricane and managing the debris before and after a storm.



Pinellas County Public Works

22211 U.S. 19 N.

Clearwater, FL 33765

(727) 464-8900

www.pinellascounty.org/publicworks

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SURVIVING THE STORM

Hurricane Preparedness and Debris Management in Pinellas County

What you need to know before and after a storm





Before a Storm

What should I do for new plantings?

- Design your lawn and landscape appropriately.
- Choose a quality stock.
- Select the right plant. Some trees are more wind resistant than others. For example, Magnolia, Live Oak, and Sabal Palm are good choices.
- Install the right plant in the right place. If there are power lines, streetlights, or a building nearby that could interfere with the tree canopy as it grows, plant it elsewhere.

What should I do for existing plantings?

- Keep plantings healthy by not over-watering or over-fertilizing.
- Use proper pruning techniques.
- Remove or treat pest damage.
- Call (727) 464-4000 and say “I want a healthy lawn” to receive a free information packet.

When should I prune my trees and limbs?

Pruning should be done on a routine basis particularly on trees and limbs that are close to buildings and utility structures.

Where can I receive assistance on lawn and landscape planning to minimize storm damage?

Visit Pinellas County Extension at 12175 125th Street North in Largo, call (727) 582-2100, or visit www.pinellascounty.org/extension.

Where can I find information on the proper disposal of appliances?

If you live in a municipality, contact your city government for information (see back panel). If you live on a public roadway in unincorporated Pinellas County, visit www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit or call Pinellas County Solid Waste at (727) 464-7500.

Where should I dispose of chemicals and electronics?

To prepare for a storm, hazardous items such as paint solvents, cleaning supplies, insecticides, pool chemicals, gasoline, oils, TVs, computers, and VCRs can be taken to the Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center located at 2855 109th Avenue North in St. Petersburg.

Hours

Monday through Friday: 6 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Special hours will apply during natural disasters

For more information on how to dispose of items, visit the online **A to Z Guide for Recycling and Disposal** at www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit or call (727) 464-7500.

Acceptable and Non-Acceptable Items

What to bring: Automotive fluids, batteries (household & vehicle), cleaners, cooking oil, fertilizers, flares, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices, fuel (gasoline, kerosene, diesel), fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, motor oil, paint (latex or oil), paint remover, paint thinner, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents, smoke detectors, wood preservatives.

What NOT to bring: Appliances, biological or infectious waste, empty paint cans, explosives, fire extinguishers, garbage, propane tanks, radioactive waste.

How can I minimize damage to the exterior of my home?

Secure or remove loose items such as sticks, limbs, branches, cut tree stumps, trash cans, furniture, and all items that may become airborne during a storm.

After a Storm

What types of debris will Pinellas County pick up?

Depending on the severity of the storm, Pinellas County will pick up within the unincorporated county the following eligible storm debris: vegetative (such as un-bagged sticks, limbs, branches, or cut tree stumps); construction & demolition items (such as roof shingles, siding, concrete material, drywall, furniture, or carpet); and white goods (large appliances). Do not mix debris types. These items are handled differently and must be collected separately. Debris located within municipal boundaries will be collected by that municipality.

What is eligible debris?

Eligible debris is material generated by a designated major disaster event. The eligible debris must be from single or multi-family residences (no commercial), and disposed of at curbside.

What types of debris will not be picked up by Pinellas County?

Pinellas County will not pick up hazardous waste (such as paint solvents, cleaning supplies, insecticides, pool chemicals, propane tanks, gasoline and oils), sandbags, or animal carcasses.

What should I do to prepare my debris for removal?

Do not bag your yard debris. Gather the debris into piles. Do not mix debris types. Do not block mailboxes, storm drains, ditches or utility boxes such as electric, telephone, cable or water meters. To ensure easy access, place stacked vegetative yard debris (sticks, limbs, branches, cut trees and stumps) in a clear, flat area next to the curb.

What should I do if a tree has fallen on my property and is in the public right-of-way?

Contact the municipality/city where you live (see back panel) for more specific information. If a tree is affecting a power line, you should call your power company. If you are in unincorporated Pinellas County, call Public Works Operations at (727) 464-8900.

What should I do if a tree has fallen on my property?

Cut the tree into manageable pieces, then move to the public right-of-way for pick up.

When will my yard debris be picked up?

A schedule will be determined after a countywide assessment has been completed. Depending on the severity of the storm, debris assessment and collection can take up to several months to complete. This information will be posted in the local newspapers, on the Public Works website, and broadcast on local radio and television stations.

Where can I drop off my yard debris?

Drop off sites and hours of operation will be determined on an as-needed basis. This information will be posted in the local newspapers, on the Public Works website, and broadcast on local radio and television stations.

Who do I call for more information on debris pick up in my area?

If you live in a municipality, contact your city government (see back panel) for information. If you live on a public roadway in unincorporated Pinellas County, call Pinellas County Public Works at (727) 464-8900.

How should I have storm debris removed from my yard?

Residents may pay a private company to remove storm debris from their property, but must also pay for the proper disposal of that debris through the company itself. For curbside collection of storm debris, you may ask friends, relatives, or local volunteers to assist you. Utility workers and government contractors will not perform work on private property.

How will the debris be collected?

Workers will use several types of heavy equipment such as dump trucks, front-end loaders, and trucks with a hydraulic, articulated arm and claw to remove storm debris.

Please Note: Not all events or storms will warrant the implementation of the Debris Management Plan. The decision to implement this plan is based on many variables, such as magnitude of the storm and volumes of debris generated. Residents will be advised whether or not Pinellas County will implement the Debris Management Plan using local media outlets and Marketing and Communications sources. If the plan is not implemented, residents should follow their normal waste collection company's guidance on debris collection.