



Springfield-Greene County  
Health Department  
*Helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives*

## **Don't Trash Your Cash**

Money is tight these days, and you may be tempted to save by cutting back on your trash service. But scrimping on trash services may actually cost you cash. Don't throw your money away, make just one change today to *properly* remove trash and **really** save cash.

Proper trash removal can reduce your health care costs by protecting you from diseases spread by germs in the trash and diseases carried by the pests and rodents attracted to the trash.

Proper trash removal also reduces property damage costs caused by mold, mildew, pests, and potential fires that can occur when trash collects. Rodents and other animals that are attracted to the trash can also damage property and start fires.

Store your garbage and solid waste in containers that are leak proof, waterproof and fitted with a fly tight lid. This will help reduce mosquitoes and flies that can carry diseases. You'll also spend less time picking up trash the animals scatter. Take your trash and garbage out at least once a week.

You can lower your trash removal costs by reducing the amount of trash you throw away. Some trash hauling services offer recycling services. Springfield maintains five recycling centers where glass, some plastics, cardboard, paper, aluminum and tin cans can be recycled at no cost. To find locations and hours for City recycling centers, visit [www.springfieldmo.gov](http://www.springfieldmo.gov) or call (417) 864-1904.

Yard waste can also be disposed of at many of the City's recycling centers, or yard waste can be composted. Combine leaves, small limbs, grass, wood ashes, coffee grounds and vegetable scraps within a wire or wood composting bin. Do not add meat, dairy, fat or bones to the compost. These items will attract pests that carry diseases. For more information on composting, visit the University of Missouri Extension Office online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/> or call (417) 862-9284.

The City also operates a Household Chemical Collection Center where Springfield residents can properly dispose of various automotive, gardening and home maintenance products. For details, visit [www.springfieldmo.gov](http://www.springfieldmo.gov) or call (417) 864-2000. Dispose of these hazardous materials properly to protect our environment and avoid costly fines.

Make just one change today to properly dispose of trash. For more information, contact the Springfield-Greene County Health Department at (417) 864-1658.