



For Immediate Release:

Aug. 28, 2020

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LDEQ encourages proper separation of trash, household chemicals and debris after a storm or flood

BATON ROUGE – With Hurricane Laura impacting much of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) encourages residents across the state to be mindful of the proper separation and disposal of debris. Additionally, please be aware of COVID-19 risks. Remember to wear a mask and maintain social distancing whenever possible during debris removal work.

“Even though we know these are trying times for everyone, the extra effort to do the debris separation at the curb goes a long way toward aiding the cleanup solution,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

During the aftermath of a flood, tropical storm or hurricane, carefully sort any trash, household chemicals, appliances/white goods and debris into separate, distinct piles and place them curbside for proper disposal.

Separate your waste into the following categories:

- Household trash: Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up as part of debris collection. This will be collected on your normal garbage removal schedule
- Vegetative debris: includes branches and limbs, logs, plants and leaves
- Construction and Demolition debris: Materials that are an integral part of the structure such as Sheetrock/drywall, plaster, lumber, plumbing, insulation or brick
- White goods: air conditioners, dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers, water heaters
- Electronics: computers, radios, televisions, devices with a cord
- Household Hazardous Waste: cleaning supplies, batteries, lawn chemicals, oil, paint and stain, pesticides, vehicle fluids

Since household chemicals can become hazardous in storm-damaged homes and businesses, please ensure you seal, secure and properly dispose of those items so that they don’t create a health and environmental hazard.

If possible, label all containers clearly before placing them out for disposal. Ensure that all food and liquids are removed from refrigerators and freezers before moving those appliances to the curb.

Most items can be recycled or donated to thrift stores or Habitat for Humanity ReStores, so please check into those locations to confirm what they will accept. Items such as used electronics, laptops and computer hardware, batteries, paint, cleaning products and solvents, and lawn/garden products can be donated to various recyclers or dropped off at a Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day.

Please refrain from conducting an open burn of your household waste as it is illegal in the state of Louisiana to do so.

For more information on debris management and re-entry after a storm or flood, please view the disaster debris management page <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/disaster-debris-management>.

Check out LDEQ's YouTube videos for tips on debris separation and open burning:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA5TN-tIKGU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yunEs3aYGY>



Separating Your Debris

Debris should be placed curbside, without blocking the roadway or storm drains.

NO PICKUP ZONE

Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up.

DEBRIS SEPARATION

Separate debris into the six categories shown below.

DO NOT STACK OR LEAN

Placing debris near or on trees, poles, or other structures makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.

UNSURE WHERE TO PLACE DEBRIS?

If you don't have a sidewalk, ditch, or utility line in front of your house, place debris at the edge of your property before the curb.



Normal Household Trash

Normal household trash and bagged debris of any kind will not be picked up with debris as part of this program. You should continue to follow your normal garbage removal schedule.



VEGETATIVE DEBRIS

- Leaves (do not put in bags)
- Logs
- Plants
- Tree branches



CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS

- Building materials
- Carpet
- Drywall
- Furniture
- Lumber
- Plumbing



APPLIANCES & WHITE GOODS

- Air conditioners
- Dishwashers
- Freezers
- Refrigerators
- Stoves
- Washers, dryers
- Water heaters



ELECTRONICS

- Computers
- Radios
- Stereos
- Televisions
- Other devices with a cord



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Cleaning supplies
- Batteries
- Lawn chemicals
- Oils
- Oil-based paints and stains
- Pesticides