2026

CHATTANOOGA JUNK REMOVAL & DISPOSAL CHEAT SHEET

YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO CLEANOUTS, DONATIONS, DROP-OFFS & HAULING

CITY PICKUP RULES & LIMITS

DONATION OPTIONS

WHEN TO HIRE A PRO

TIPS & LOCAL INSIDER INFO

CHATTANOOGAJUNKREMOVALPROS.COM

Before you drag anything to the curb or load a truck, use this table. Every situation has a fastest, lowest-cost path.

Your Situation	Best First Move	Why
Item is reusable and in good shape	Donate first	Try Habitat ReStore, The Samaritan Center, or Salvation Army. Allow lead time — damaged or stained items get refused.
City of Chattanooga resident, can wait for area week	City bulky pickup	Handles furniture, mattresses, heavy appliances, grills, carpet. Not for landlords, businesses, or apartments.
City resident, pickup-sized load, no time to wait	City refuse center	Faster than curbside. Strict vehicle, tag, residency, and material limits apply.
Outside Chattanooga city limits	Private hauler or county recycling	Hamilton County has no trash or brush pickup. County recycling handles standard recyclables, computers, and batteries only.
Landlord, contractor, or business	Private hauler	City bulk pickup and refuse centers do not serve these loads. Trying to use them creates bigger problems.
Paint, chemicals, gasoline, propane, pesticides, pool chemicals, or solvents	HHW facility or special disposal	Private pros typically refuse hazardous waste. Use the HHW facility at 4063 N Hawthorne St.
Job is urgent, heavy, upstairs, or involves multiple rooms	Private hauler	City pickup takes time and has physical limits. A pro handles stairs, tight access, and large mixed loads.

First Rule

Do not guess. A rejected load, an illegal dump fine, or a missed move-out deadline costs more than a phone call. Get a quote before you move a single item.

Screenshot this page. It covers the items that trip people up most.

Item	Best Route	Watch Out For
Couch or furniture	Donate if clean. City bulk pickup for Chattanooga residents.	Stairs, tight hallways, rental properties, and urgency all point to a private hauler.
Mattress or box spring	City bulk pickup or refuse center for eligible city residents.	Most donation centers refuse mattresses. Heavy, upstairs, or tied to a cleanout: use a pro.
Refrigerator, freezer, or AC unit	City refuse centers may accept from eligible residents.	Appliances with refrigerant need proper recovery before disposal. County recycling does not take appliances.
TV or electronics	County recycling: computers and rechargeable batteries only.	TVs and CRT monitors need e-waste routing and may carry a surcharge. Do not assume a charity will take them.
Tires	Refuse centers: up to 4 auto tires for eligible residents. County Tire Recovery Center by appointment.	$1/passenger tire, $4/truck tire at the County center. No rims. Commercial hauling has separate permits.
Latex or acrylic paint	Dry with cat litter or paint hardener, then put in regular trash.	HHW does not accept latex or acrylic paint — it's non-toxic. Oil-based paint goes to HHW.
Construction debris	Private hauler, dumpster, or approved transfer route.	City bulk pickup refuses lumber, drywall, brick, concrete, tile, glass, mirrors. Contractor debris fully excluded.
Yard waste and brush	City brush collection for residential natural wood meeting placement rules.	Treated wood, pallets, land clearing debris, and mixed garbage are not brush pickup material.
Hazardous waste (chemicals, gasoline, propane, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents)	HHW facility, 4063 N Hawthorne St.	Private pros refuse these. Do not mix with a regular haul expecting the pro to sort it out.

Cost of Getting It Wrong

The cost of getting it wrong: illegal dump fines, rejected loads, extra trips, missed move-out deadlines. Doing it right the first time is almost always cheaper.

CITY BULKY PICKUP: USEFUL, BUT LIMITED

The City of Chattanooga collects brush and bulk trash on a rotating area schedule. Items must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of your scheduled week, separated by material type.

Topic	Details
Usually accepted	BBQ grills, mattresses, heavy appliances, furniture, carpet and padding, water heaters, large toys, TVs.
Not accepted	55-gallon drums, liquids, building materials, lumber, auto parts, household garbage, compressed gas tanks, insulation, propane tanks, brick, concrete, railroad ties, tires, cardboard, recyclables, pallets, dirt, hazardous materials, tile, glass, mirrors, drywall.
Placement rules	Separate bulk from brush, leaves, and garbage. Keep at least 5 feet from cars, mailboxes, and low wires. Do not block roads, sidewalks, ditches, or catch basins.
Visit limit	12 collections per property within any consecutive 12-month period.
Who cannot use it	Businesses, apartment complexes, and landlords are not eligible. You or a relative must live at the address requesting service.

BEFORE PICKUP DAY: SIMPLE PREP CHECKLIST

#	Task	Why It Matters
1	Sort into piles	Keep, donate, and haul. Add a fourth pile for hazardous or questionable items.
2	Take photos	Wide shots and close-ups including stairs, driveway, hallways, and item labels. Photos prevent surprise pricing.
3	Check access	Measure tight doorways for couches, fridges, pianos, and equipment. Note stairs, gates, gravel, steep driveways, and parking limits.
4	Set aside problem items	Paint, chemicals, propane, tires, electronics, and appliances with refrigerant may need special handling. Separate them before the hauler arrives.
5	Ask about donation routing	If items are reusable, ask whether the pro can drop them at a donation center or whether you should schedule that separately.
6	Confirm price first	You approve the price before work begins. If the pro can't explain the price clearly, slow down.

CHATTANOOGA REFUSE CENTERS

Refuse centers are faster than curbside for eligible residents, but they come with real restrictions. Know them before you load the truck.

Topic	Details
Locations	4276 Airport Road | 4500 North Access Road | 1400 West 57th Street
Hours	Tue–Fri: 10 a.m.–6 p.m. | Sat: 9 a.m.–6 p.m. | Sun: 1–5 p.m. | Closed Monday.
Who can use them	City of Chattanooga residents with household bulky trash. Driver must show city residency and valid Hamilton County tags.
Vehicle limits	No tandem axle trailers, dump bodies, trucks larger than a standard pickup, or commercial tags.
Visit limits	Up to 12 visits per calendar year. Limit of 8 bags per visit.
Accepted	Appliances, mattresses, BBQ grills, microwaves, clothing, metal, furniture, toys, lumber, drywall (one truckload max), up to 4 auto tires.
Not accepted	Asphalt, cleaning products, batteries, biological waste, liquids, car parts, pallets, cardboard, propane, concrete, roofing, gasoline, oil, hazardous materials, styrofoam, tile, explosives.

CITY LANDFILL — 9327 BIRCHWOOD PIKE, HARRISON, TN

Topic	Details
Hours	Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–3 p.m., excluding listed holidays.
Cost	$40/ton for garbage and special waste. Minimums: $30.50 for garbage, $95 for special waste requiring a permit. No cash or coin.
Free resident disposal	Household garbage from your primary residence only, in nothing larger than a pickup. Does not include construction waste, appliances, furniture, clothing, pallets, or metal.
Load rules	All loads must be tarped. Batteries, gas tanks, and flammable liquids not accepted.

DONATION: SAVE THE GOOD STUFF

Donation works well when the item is reusable, clean, safe, and you have time. Charities are not free disposal services. They have every right to refuse damaged, stained, or unsellable items.

Option	Practical Details	Usually Refuses
Habitat for Humanity ReStore 1150 E 14th St	Donations Tue–Sat, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Pickup available for select items, often 3–4 weeks out. Best for good furniture, working appliances, cabinetry, and building materials.	Mattresses, box springs, damaged furniture, recalled baby items, toilets, unframed glass, heavily stained items.
The Samaritan Center 6017 Ooltewah Georgetown Rd	Donation dock: Sun 1–5 p.m., Mon–Thu 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri 9 a.m.–3 p.m., closed Sat. Free pickup for large items within 20 miles if on main level.	Pianos, mattresses, box springs, hospital beds, water beds, TVs, computers, damaged furniture, building materials, car parts, paint, chemicals.
Salvation Army	Use 1-800-SA-TRUCK or the online donation tool for pickup and drop-off options. Accepts clothing, furniture, household goods, and appliances.	Call first for large or questionable items. Local centers set their own rules.

When Donation Isn't the Right Path

If you have a lease deadline, estate timeline, closing date, or eviction turnover, a hauler may be your only realistic option even if some usable items get donated first. Do not count on a charity pickup to solve a time-sensitive problem.

The One-Page Leave-Behind

For real estate agents, property managers, and estate attorneys: the item-by-item routing table works as a standalone handout you can give clients at the exact moment they need junk removal help. Ask us about a co-branded version — it costs you nothing.

WHAT JUNK REMOVAL USUALLY COSTS IN CHATTANOOGA

Most jobs get priced by volume, weight, access, labor, and special disposal needs. The ranges below are planning estimates. The local pro gives you the real price before any work begins.

Job Size	Typical Range	Approx. Volume	Notes
Minimum / single item	$95 – $125	1–2 cu. yds.	One couch, one appliance, or a small simple pickup.
Quarter truckload	~$144	80–120 cu. ft.	A few bulky items or a small pile.
Half truckload	~$287	180–240 cu. ft.	Medium garage, basement, or move-out pile.
Three-quarter load	~$414	300–360 cu. ft.	Larger cleanout or mixed household debris.
Full truckload	~$591	420–480 cu. ft.	Large cleanout, multiple rooms, or heavy volume.
Estate cleanout	$1,200–$2,000+	Often 2+ loads	Depends on house size, labor, stairs, sorting, and disposal needs.

WHAT RAISES THE PRICE

- More volume or heavier material.
- Stairs, long carries, tight driveways, steep roads, or no easy truck access.
- Labor-heavy items: hot tubs, pianos, sheds, and multi-room cleanouts.
- Special disposal for appliances with refrigerant, electronics, tires, mattresses, or regulated materials.
- Urgent timing, same-day requests, and large mixed loads.

Pro Tip
Photos help. When you request a quote, upload photos of the pile, access path, stairs, and driveway. A picture prevents guesswork and avoids surprise pricing on pickup day.

SITUATIONS THAT NEED EXTRA PLANNING

Situation	What to Know
Landlords and rental turnovers	City bulky pickup is not available to landlords, apartment complexes, or businesses. Refuse centers also exclude contractors and commercial vehicles. For tenant left-behind debris, a private hauler is the only legal option.
Contractor and renovation debris	Lumber, drywall, brick, concrete, tile, roofing, pallets, glass, and mirrors are all excluded from city programs. Use a private hauler, dumpster, or approved transfer route.
Estate cleanouts	These jobs are emotionally heavy and physically large. Out-of-state families should work from photos and a clear four-way plan: keep, donate, haul, hazardous materials.
College move-outs (UTC, Covenant, Southern Adventist)	May and August create intense cleanout pressure. Student items are often low-cost furniture, mini-fridges, boxes, and mixed trash. The deadline is usually the real problem, not the volume.
Signal Mountain and Lookout Mountain	Steep grades, narrow roads, tight turns, and difficult driveways limit what large trucks can access. Smaller hauling vehicles are often worth the tradeoff.
Hixson and Ooltewah	Wide suburban driveways and garages make both dumpster and full-service removal practical. HOA rules can still limit dumpster placement and timing.
Soddy-Daisy and Harrison	Rural access, gravel drives, lakefront debris, storm debris, sheds, and hot tubs require extra vehicle planning. Longer drive times between jobs.

Important Reminder

Private hauler does not mean anything goes. Legit junk removal pros still refuse hazardous waste, fuel, medical waste, explosives, asbestos, and regulated materials. If it can leak, burn, explode, or get someone fined, ask before pickup day.

READY TO GET RID OF IT?

Get a Free Quote

Submit your job details and a local junk removal pro will contact you with a free quote. You are not obligated to book.

Visit: chattanoogajunkremovalpros.com/contact
Call or text: (423) 556-3464

Scan for a free quote

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