

TRASH FEE FAQs

Why am I getting a bill for trash - I never did before?

In the past, the City's landfill revenues and operations covered most of the City's trash costs. When the landfill closed at the end of 2005, that revenue ceased and the City's cost escalated dramatically. Starting in Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007-June 30 2008) the trash program will be an Enterprise operation, billed as a utility, like water and sewer.

What's this about a \$180 per year charge for trash? Where's the money going?

The City will be billing for curbside service \$180 per apartment or household to pay for collection and trucking. A single family home will pay \$180, a 2 family will pay \$360, a 3 family will pay \$540 and so on. The billing will be on the City Water, Sewer & Trash bill, and be sent quarterly- \$45.00 per apartment or household in the building. This money pays for the cost of running the trucks and the labor to collect the trash at curbside. You are allowed 1 barrel of trash, less than 40 gallons in size and less than 50 pounds to be picked up each week. You can use a barrel smaller than 40 gallons, but not one larger than 40 gallons. The barrel can not be overfilled-no matter how large or small your barrel is- no trash or any part of a bag can extend beyond the top rim of your barrel or it won't be picked up. Trash must fit completely within your barrel and not be filled above the top rim. Unlimited extra trash may be placed in yellow Gardner Pay As You Throw (PAYT) bags.

Why are the bags \$3.50- I can buy bags a lot cheaper than that? Where's the money going?

The bag charge is for the cost of disposal of the contents- trucking it out of town and burying it in a commercial landfill costs over \$80 per ton. The bag charge pays the cost of disposal.

Where do I get the yellow City of Gardner PAYT bags for my extra trash?

Bags are sold at Hannaford Bros Supermarket, Stop & Shop Supermarket, Agway, Aubuchon Hardware, R & M Convenience Store and City Hall. They come in rolls of ten bags for \$35.00. Individual bags are available at City Hall in the Board of Health Office, Room 29, and the Water Department office in Room 114.

I got a sticker on my bag or barrel and it wasn't picked up- why?

The sticker has a few words to explain it. You are allowed 1 barrel of trash, less than 40 gallons in size and less than 50 pounds to be picked up each week. You can use a barrel smaller than 40 gallons, but not one larger than 40 gallons. The barrel can not be overfilled-no matter how large or small your barrel is- no trash or any part of a bag can extend beyond the top rim of your barrel or it won't be picked up. Trash must fit completely within your barrel. Unlimited extra trash may be placed in yellow Gardner Pay As You Throw (PAYT) bags. Items refused for collection for violations of these rules must be brought back from the curb within 24 hours.

When does curbside Yard Waste Pickup occur?

Yard Waste pickup occurs on your regular trash day on the following weeks:

July 7-10 2009 August 4-7 2009 September 1-4 2009 October 6-9 2009
November 3-6 2009 & November 17-20 2009 January 5-8 2010 **Christmas Trees & Yard Waste**
April 6-9 2010 May 4-7 2010 June 1-4 2010

How much Yard Waste may I put out? How do I put it out?

There is no limit to how many containers or barrels of yard waste you can put out. Grass and leaves may be placed in paper yard waste bags or loose in open barrels or open cardboard boxes. Sticks less than 2 inches thick and 3 feet long may be placed out in bundles. All bundles and containers must weigh less than 50 pounds each.

Will Yard Waste mixed with trash be picked up? - No!

Will Yard Waste in plastic bags, including City of Gardner yellow Pay As You Throw bags, be picked up? - No!

How do I dispose of an Appliance, TVs, Tires, Car Batteries, Computers, Fluorescent Lights, Paint, Metal items or Lawnmowers?

They are accepted at the Transfer Station at 744 West Street, Rte. 68. A sticker or one day pass is needed to enter the Transfer Station, and many items have charges. See the Transfer Station information available at the Board of Health office for more details, or on the Annual Gardner Recycling Info Calendar sent to each household.