



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: NEW Trash and Recycling Program effective July 1, 2020

1. Are we getting new recycling carts?

No. You will keep your existing cart.

2. Are the rates changing?

The price of yellow bags will remain the same. The annual Trash and Recycling fee will remain the same (\$250). The Recycling Center fees will remain the same. ONLY households with more than 1 recycling cart will see a new fee added to their annual rate (\$15/quarter/cart). Residents have until September 1, 2020 to return their cart and avoid the new fee. (See details below).

I only have 1 recycling cart; will the rates change for me?

No.


I have 2 recycling carts; will the rates change for me?

Yes. Each additional cart will now cost \$15/quarter. Your new annual fee will be \$310 (\$77.50/quarter).

3. Are we being charged more to recycle more?

If you only have 1 recycling cart you will see no additional charges. The Town is switching to weekly recycling; therefore, residents with 2 or more recycling carts may not need their extra carts. By minimizing the number of extra carts distributed to residents, the Town will be able to streamline the collection process and decrease recycling contamination - thus avoiding recycling contamination fees.

4. I don't need my EXTRA cart(s) anymore. What do I do?

Go to www.townofmedway.org, click the Trash and Recycling link  on the main page, and complete the RETURN MY RECYCLING CART form. Please ensure the cart is clean and empty. Residents will have until September 1, 2020 to return their EXTRA cart and avoid paying the new quarterly fee.

5. Are we getting rid of the yellow bags?

No.

Why?

The yellow bag program along with the annual trash and recycling fee (\$250.00) pays for the curbside trash and recycling program. It is intended to be a self-sustaining program. Pay-As-You-Throw programs have been proven to maximize reuse, recycling and waste reduction.

6. How can I use fewer yellow bags?

DIVERSION. Take advantage of the great recycling programs the Town offers!

Compost: By composting you can reduce your volume of trash by approximately 20%. The Town sells compost bins every spring at a reduced rate.

Textile recycling: Bay State Textiles collection bins are located at each school and at the Recycling Center. Every ton of material collected earns \$100 for the Medway Foundation for Education.

Foam plastic: Foam blocks from packaging take up space in your yellow bags! Bring these to the Recycling Center for FREE! (Please no packing peanuts).

Metal: small appliances should go in your yellow bags; however, if an item is mostly metal, bring it to the Recycling Center for FREE.

Rigid plastic: large plastic toys, lawn furniture, laundry baskets, etc. can be brought to the Recycling Center for FREE.

7. How do I get a new ORANGE Recycling Center sticker?

Go to the Recycling Center during normal operating hours with proof of residency, and our Recycling Center staff will assist you.

8. What am I allowed to put in my curbside recycling cart?

Keep it simple! If it isn't one of these 5 types of items, keep it out of your curbside cart.

Paper: newspaper, magazines, junk mail, printer paper, etc. (If junk mail arrives and it is wrapped in a film plastic bag...REMOVE the plastic bag and dispose of in your trash).

Carboard: cereal boxes, shipping boxes, pizza boxes (grease is okay, pizza is not).

Plastic: think of the shape of the item. Is it a bottle, jar, jug, or tub? If yes, empty and rinse it, put the lid back on, and recycle it curbside. NEVER put film plastics in your curbside cart (i.e. wrappers, bags, etc.). NEVER bag your recyclable items!

Glass: food and beverage containers. Empty and rinse.

Metal: food and beverage containers. Empty and rinse.

Still unsure if an item should be in the CURBSIDE recycling cart? The **Recyclopedia** tool has the most current information on hundreds of items and where/how to dispose of them. Visit the Trash and Recycling link at www.townofmedway.org, click the Recycle Smart image and you'll be directed to the tool. Simply enter the item and search!

A screenshot of a web search interface. It consists of a light gray rectangular box. Inside the box, on the left, is a text input field with the placeholder text "Recyclopedia: Can I recycle this?". To the right of the input field is a blue rectangular button with the word "Search" in white text.

9. Will my trash day change?

At this point in time, no. Our new hauler, Lawrence Waste Services, is working diligently to maximize route efficiency while keeping everyone's trash day the same. However, as the program unfolds over the next few months, there may be small adjustments to some residents' collection date. There will be ample notification if any changes are to be made.

10. Why are we allowed fewer "special item" pickups?

During 2019, 98% of residents disposed of 4 or less special items. Therefore, the Town was able to save money by reducing the maximum allotment from 8 items to 4 items while still providing the same level of service to most residents. Under the new program, residents will be able to dispose of a wider range of special items including large metal items and large bulk items (see Curbside Chronicle for details).

11. Why are there restrictions on weekly bulk item pickups?

Residents are still allowed to dispose of 1 bulk item weekly; however, the item must be less than 6 feet long and under 100 pounds. This limitation helped reduce costs.

12. Where can I learn more information?

www.townofmedway.org Trash and Recycling link  or call the DPW Office at 508-533-3275.

