

TRASH FAQS

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

Starting in Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008) the trash program became an Enterprise operation, billed as a utility, like water and sewer. It is not tax supported.

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. The toter cannot be overfilled- no trash or any part of a bag can extend beyond the top rim of your toter or it won't be picked up. Each participating household has received a 48 gal trash toter and a 64 gal or 96 gal recycling toter. These toters are owned by the City of Gardner. 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, 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 Collector's Office in Room 118.

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

The sticker has a few words to explain it. You are allowed 1 48 gallon toter of trash to be picked up each week. The toter cannot be overfilled- no trash or any part of a bag can extend beyond the top rim of your toter or it won't be picked up. Trash must fit completely within your toter. The toters have an attached cover on hinges and you must close the cover to put it at curbside. If the cover will not close and there is trash above the rim of your toter, your trash may not be collected. 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:

April 3-6, 2012	May 1-4, 2012	June 5-8 2012	
July 10-13, 2012	August 7-10, 2012	September 4-7, 2012	October 2-5, 2012
November 6-9, 2012 & November 27-30, 2012		January 8-11, 2013	Christmas Trees & Yard Waste
April 2-5, 2013	May 7-10, 2013	June 4-7, 2013	

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

There is no limit to how many containers or bags 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 on line at the City of Gardner Web site: www.gardner-ma.gov, at the Board of Health office for more details, or in the Annual Gardner Recycling Info Calendar mailed to each resident annually.