

TALKING TRASH – FAQs

The Selectboard thought there would be a lot of questions about implementing Act 148. Well, you haven't disappointed! There have been FPF posts, emails, and even texts sent in asking questions about Vermont's new trash law. We're trying to answer emails directly as they come in and we'll be posting frequently asked questions to FPF on a regular basis.

1. Can I put as many large/bulky items at the curbside without the 64-gallon weekly limit?

Yes, but let's better define large/bulky items and state that no new items have been added to the list of what Gauthier's Trucking is contracted to pickup at curbside. Some large/bulky items include: mattresses, couches, furniture which will still be serviced the same way. Items that Gauthier's Trucking cannot take curbside will continue to include: any appliances - stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, large metal items or any electronic equipment - TV's, computers, etc. Please call the Town office or Gauthier's Trucking with specific questions.

The only thing that is going to be charged additionally is extra residential household trash. The distinction is that there's no way to improve recycling for items such as furniture, so there's no fee to dispose of these types of items regardless of the volume. The intent of Act 148 is to try to increase recycling of paper, plastic, etc. that can be taken out of the waste stream, so people will be charged extra for trash overages of this type.

2. Will I be credited for weeks I put out less than 64 gallons of trash so I won't be charged the overage fee on the rare occasions when I go over the limit?

I don't personally like this part of the law, but to answer the question, no, that's not how Act 148 is designed to work...the maximum allowable waste amounts are based on weekly pickup, not averages over a month, year, etc. So, no, you wouldn't get "credit" for putting out less trash for multiple weeks during the year.

3. What if there are multiple apartments or an accessory dwelling (e.g., for my parents or in-laws) at my location?

Multiple apartments registered with the Town means multiple separate "accounts" which each are allowed 64 gallons per week. If there are separate apartments, you should receive stickers in the mail from the Town to designate which trash is associated with each apartment.

4. Will we be increasing our recycling to once a week with the increased demand?

As part of our evaluation of trash/recycling in response to Act 148, we got pricing for weekly (instead of twice per month) recycling. Unfortunately, it's too expensive to make that switch at this time. We will consider weekly recycling when we prepare budgets for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, 2016.

5. I have two, 30-gallon Rubbermaid trash cans. Can I put as much trash as I can in both containers even if I use four, 30-gallon trash bags that are only half full?

Yes. Whatever you can fit into the two, 30-gallon trash cans should be collected for no additional fee.

6. Will homeowners be required to buy a 64-gallon garbage can?

No. Keep putting the trash out as you always have done it...trash bags, empty grain bags, Hannaford's bags, etc. within a garbage can or just the bags alone.

7. Will Gauthier's Trucking be able to figure out the total volume in bags to know if a homeowner has exceeded the limit?

Yes. These folks pickup a lot of garbage bags of all shapes, sizes, and colors. They are pretty good at estimating trash volumes. To use Tony Kitsos' phrase, they've been through the "Adult Ed Garbage Math Class" (so you don't have to).

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