

Don't be Left Holding the Bag - Here's what **not** to do when placing your trash out for pickup every week

1. Over-filled container/lid doesn't close - Most areas in York County receive automated garbage collection service, which means that containers are emptied mechanically. Over-filled containers cause trash to spill out on the ground. Trash drops out of the container before it reaches the hopper and either falls beside the truck or flies over it. What a mess!



2. Too heavy - dirt, sod or other items that make container weigh more than 240 lbs. - To keep damage from occurring to the truck's automated collection arm, collection trucks have a set pressure that grasps the container to lift it to the hopper. If more than 240 pounds of trash is placed in the container, damage to the automated collection arm will occur.



3. Debris sticking out of container - We have seen basketball goal posts and other items placed in garbage containers, some as high as five to six feet out of the top! Containers with materials in them such as this will not fit into the truck's hopper and will not be collected.



4. Container is too close to a mailbox, car/truck, and/or driveway end walls - When containers are placed too close to other items, the automated arm will hit and damage the item or itself. As a rule, all containers should be three feet away from any other item.



5. Bags, bricks, or any other items are placed on top of container lid - Items that are placed atop the trash container will fall off before the container reaches the hopper, spilling onto the ground or hitting the truck.



6. Paint cans, chemicals, cooking oils, or any liquid items placed into trash containers - By state law, liquid items are strictly **prohibited** from being placed into your trash container. Liquids combine together to form leachate (the liquids that drain from landfills) when placed in a landfill. Costs for treating this liquid are very expensive. If the driver does not see the paint cans or other liquid items before they fall into the hopper, these liquids can also end up spilling along the street. York County provides Household Chemical and Computer Drop-off Collection five times a year. Please visit www.vppsa.org/hhc.htm for a complete schedule of events and locations.



7. Containers are not out when the trash truck is collecting your side of the street - Records are kept by the drivers to identify containers that are out as well as those that are not, including the time that they are there to provide service. If your container is not out, a record of this is sent over to the County's Waste Management Division staff so they can be fully informed when answering calls from customers.



These are the seven most recorded reasons why trash is not collected - all of which are within the parameters of our Curbside Collection Contract. Therefore, if you "fit" one of the scenarios above, we cannot send the contractor back to collect. You may, however, bring your uncollected trash to the Waste Management Center located at 145 Goodwin Neck Road. There is no charge to residents who are subscribers to the County's garbage collection service.

Should you find yourself "holding the bag," the County and its trash collection contractor does place "Tags" on your trash container to explain the interruption in your service. This helps you understand what the issues are for the collection contractor and provides information to you on how the program works. Many times we are asked, "If you can put a tag on it why can't you pick it up?" Good question. When we first began the automated trash collection service, we did just that: tagged the container, but collected the trash. We have found in recent years that it is much more effective to leave a tag explaining the issue *as well* as the trash. This method has greatly reduced the number of "repeat offenders!"

For additional information about the curbside garbage collection program, and other services offered through the Department of Environmental and Development Services, please review our web pages at yorkcounty.gov/eds. Information specific to the garbage collection program is found at yorkcounty.gov/eds/garbage. Garbage drop-off hours are Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 890-3780 if you have any questions.

The York County Waste Management Division appreciates your efforts and your understanding!