



Town of Rocky Mountain House
&
Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority



Residential Garbage Collection – Frequently Asked Questions

1. 3 Bag Limit

- a. “I use small bags, which is just going to be more garbage going into our landfill if I have to put these small bags into larger bags to utilize the 3 bag limit.”**

The Waste Bylaw doesn't address the smaller, kitchen catcher bags; however, once the roll-out carts are provided this will no longer be an issue as long as each bag is tied. The Town is working with the Regional Waste Authority to confirm when and how the transition to roll-out carts will occur. As part of this transition process, the Waste Bylaw will be reviewed and amended. Currently we are targeting September/October for this transition. Until this transition occurs, we recommend you place your smaller bags into a larger bag to ensure compliance with the 3-bag limit as per the current Bylaw.

- b. “I have a large family and 3 bags just won't cut it for us”**

A 3-bag limit has been part of the Waste Bylaw since 2002. The intent of the limit is to encourage residents to reduce the amount of waste they are generating. This also provides an upper limit in our waste collection contracts to allow Contractors to budget and bid accordingly when this work is tendered. As part of the transition to roll-out carts, the Town could consider adding an optional extra cart application process and fee for the larger families that make a request and meet certain criteria. This may require an amendment to the current waste collection contract as well.

2. Cost – “Are we going to be charged more when we are supplied with the garbage bin?”

No, the contract costs for Residential Waste Collection will actually go down a couple of cents per residential unit per week.

3. Fines – “Will we be fined if we don't follow the rules of the bylaw?”

Yes. As per the Bylaw, any person who contravenes any provision of the Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable to penalty as set out in Schedule B, which outline penalties of \$75 for the 1st offense, \$150 for the 2nd offense and \$300 for the 3rd and any subsequent offenses. The Bylaw also gives the Waste Collection Contractor the right to refuse removal of any waste that does not meet the bylaw requirements.

4. “Can I opt out of paying for garbage collection if I take it to the landfill myself?”

No, this a public utility service that all residents must contribute towards.

5. “What if someone else puts their garbage in my garbage can and there is more than 3 bags in there, will I not get all MY garbage collected then?”

There is no way for the Town or Waste Collection Contractor to know if this is occurring. If this is an issue, you will need to deal with your neighbours directly. This will be unlikely with roll-out carts as these will typically be kept on your property and be rolled out only on collection day.

6. “I have been doing the same thing with my garbage for 20 years, why is it changing now?”

Although the regulations and requirements have been a part of the Waste Bylaw since 2002, it has come to our attention that previous Waste Collection Contractors were not enforcing this Bylaw which has created confusion with residents and bad personal waste management practices. Town Administration and our Waste Collection Contractor have an obligation to communicate and enforce the Bylaw requirements. Bag (or waste volume) limits are a standard practice to successfully encourage people to recycle. There is also a bigger push than ever to educate and promote waste diversion to limit our impact on the environment.