

Ashland P-A-Y-T Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why do I have to use the Town of Ashland orange trash bags?

A. The Town of Ashland adopted the Pay-As-You-Throw (P-A-Y-T) unit-based pricing system for its solid waste disposal needs back in July, 2006. In a P-A-Y-T solid waste program, households pay a per bag fee for the disposal of household trash. The town is not charged for trash disposal by volume, it is charged for the tonnage of trash that is presented for incineration at the processing facility. The revenue generated from the bag sales helps to defray the costs of the tonnage fees that the town incurs. The major benefits of a P-A-Y-T program are:

1. Waste collection costs are distributed more fairly among the population and in proportion to the amount of waste each household generates because residents pay for only the amount of trash that they generate. Households generating less trash pay less than households that generate more. Residences that enact measures to reduce their generation of trash, lower-income families, households with fewer members and the elderly tend to produce less waste that requires fewer trash bags and thus pay lower waste collection fees.
2. It is an effective tool in overall waste minimization and increase in recycling which significantly reduces solid waste disposal costs and decreases air pollution from trash incinerators effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Q. Why do the bags break?

A. There are two reasons why the bags break.

1. The bags are defective (seams aren't sealed properly, bags are scored/perforated in inappropriate locations on the bag, etc.).
2. The bags are being overloaded. The large bags (33 gallon) are rated to contain approximately 35 lbs. and the small bags (14 gallon bags) are rated to contain approximately 18 lbs. Bag weight should never exceed the OSHA Regulated weight of 50lbs. If you need a dolly or wagon to bring your bag to the curb, it is probably overloaded. If you are having a hard time lifting a bag or fear that a bag is going to tear due to being overloaded, the waste hauler that is coming by to pick up that bag at curbside will have the same issues as he attempts to pick up the bag and deposit it into the truck.

Q. Where can I purchase the Town of Ashland trash bags?

A. Ashland Convenience Store; E-Z Convenience Food Mart; Lucky Farms; Main Street Wine & Spirits; Shaw's Supermarket; Market Basket; Rite Aid and CVS

Q How much do the Town of Ashland trash bags cost?

A. There are 2 different size P-A-Y-T bags available (14 gallon or 33 gallon) and both sizes come in a package of 5 bags each. The package of 14 gallon bags is \$5.25. The package of 33 gallon bags is \$9.00.

Q. What do I do if I purchase a defective roll of Town of Ashland trash bags?

A. Do not return the bags to the store. Contact David Miller at the DPW via email at dmiller@ashlandmass.com or by calling: 508-532-7943. Please be ready to provide the following information:

- Where/when did you purchase the bags (having a receipt is ideal)?
- How many rolls of defective bags did you purchase?
- What size bags are they?
- What is wrong with the bags (sending a picture or providing a defective bag as a sample is extremely helpful)?

Q. What is the Town of Ashland doing to ensure better quality bags from WasteZero (bag manufacturer)?

A. The town relies on feedback from its residents with regards to the quality of the P-A-Y-T bags so that if there are any defective bags that are being purchased, the town can report the defects to WasteZero. By reporting the defect and providing the necessary information about any defective bags that you may have purchased, WasteZero can decipher what production run the bags came from and correct the problem and also remove any remaining defective bags from that production run from the warehouse before they are shipped to Ashland stores and sold to more residents. In response to concerns from Ashland and a number of cities and towns, WasteZero has invested \$1.6 million in new equipment to ensure better quality. Ashland can also improve quality consistency by reducing the amount of recycled product that WasteZero uses to make bags as well. The town is currently weighing the customer service versus environmental impact of this option.

Q. Is the Town of Ashland considering alternative methods of trash disposal in the future?

A. Ashland's current contract with Waste Management runs through 2022. In anticipation of the next waste contract we will look at several alternatives, including a hybrid system that utilizes a smaller (32 gallon) cart with the ability to purchase bags for any trash not being able to fit into the cart system.