



To All Residential Customers:

On March 13, 2020, the President issued a COVID-19 Emergency Declaration which identified solid waste collectors as “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers.” In addition, Virginia Governor Northam has declared a state of emergency for Virginia.

Our solid waste employees play a critical role in ensuring the health and safety of our community as they move from house to house to collect, transport and dispose of waste. Due to the nature of their duties, our workforce is unable to wear most of the protective equipment that other essential employees are required wear to protect their health and the health of others. They are unable, in many cases, to follow the social distancing guidelines due to the requirement that they occupy the same vehicle and work side-by-side to collect solid waste.

As a result of these facts, it has become necessary to make additional changes to our collection services, effective Monday, April 6th:

- No yard waste will be collected from residents in Prince William, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. At the present time, this does not include the Town of Leesburg or Manassas Park.
- In communities with trash cans and/or Toters: trash outside of the container, including bagged trash, will not be collected. Trash that does not fit in the container should instead be placed into the container for collection on the 2nd pickup day of the week.
- In communities without trash cans and/or Toters, or those with once weekly pickup: trash that is wholly contained within trash bags, sealed or tied tightly, will be collected.
- Due to the increased amount of residential trash and recycling being collected during this time, no adjustments will be made to your account due to these changes.

From the Fairfax County website:

Residents can help provide safer working conditions for our workforce by following these best practices.

1. **REDUCE THE WASTE YOU GENERATE-** During this unprecedented time, residents should be mindful of the quantity of waste they generate, so as not to overwhelm the collection system. For example, this is not the best time to clean out the garage/do spring cleaning.
2. **STOP SETTING OUT YARD WASTE AT THE CURB.** Start grasscycling, backyard composting, and limit generation of yard waste if possible.
3. **BAG ALL TRASH and REFUSE –** Bagged trash limits exposure to potentially harmful materials, such as used tissue that could spread viruses and bacteria.
4. **KEEP ALL RECYCLING CLEAN AND LOOSE –** When recycling is loose in the bin, not in bags, it is easier to process. Removing food and liquid residue from recyclables minimizes the spread of viruses and bacteria. Only place plastic bottles and jugs, paper, cardboard, cartons and metal cans in the bin.
5. **EMPTY ALL LIQUIDS –** Liquids in bottles, cans, and other containers can carry viruses and bacteria and can splash onto collectors when trash and recyclables are emptied.
6. **WIPE/DISINFECT CART HANDLES AND LIDS –** The two main touch points on a cart for collectors are the lid and the handles. By wiping those areas down with disinfectant or soapy water, you minimize the danger of shared contact areas.
7. **SEAL AND MARK ALL SHARPS/NEEDLES –** Properly dispose of medical sharp objects such as syringes by placing them in a sealed, rigid plastic container. Seal the container with sturdy tape, clearly mark it as “Sharps,” and place in the trash.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions concerning this notification, please contact us at (703) 257-7100 or by email at customerservice@patriotdisposalservices.com.

Thank you,

Patriot Disposal, Inc.

