



Pennington Borough Automated Trash Collection Program

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MOVING TO AUTOMATED TRASH COLLECTION? Automation is a faster and more efficient way to collect residential solid waste. In addition to anticipated time and cost savings, the program will provide a uniform look, help keep our neighborhoods neat and clean, and improve safe working conditions for Department of Public Works (DPW) employees.

WHEN WILL AUTOMATED COLLECTION BEGIN? Target date is August 2, 2021. New calendars to be delivered July 2021.

WILL COLLECTION BE CONTRACTED OUT OR PERFORMED BY PENNINGTON BOROUGH? Collection with the automated truck will be performed by DPW employees.

WILL MY COLLECTION DAYS REMAIN THE SAME? No. Your trash will be collected once per week, on either Monday or Thursday, depending on what side of town your address is on. Place all trash carts out for collection after 5:30 p.m. the day before or prior to 7 a.m. the day of your scheduled collection day. All emptied containers must be removed from curbside within 12 hours after the end of the collection day.

DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR MY NEW TRASH CART? No. All owners of a taxable residential lot/unit will receive one (1) new, 95-gallon trash cart at no charge. Target date is July 2021 for cart distribution.

WILL TENANTS BE PROVIDED WITH CARTS? No. Carts and trash collection are provided for each *taxable lot* in the Borough. If you live in an apartment, ask your landlord for guidance. If you or your landlord would like to purchase a cart and annual trash collection service, please contact Borough Hall at 609.737.0276 to discuss options.

THE NEW CARTS LOOK BIG, ARE THEY EASY TO WHEEL TO AND FROM THE CURB? The new trash carts are designed to be easier to maneuver than a traditional trash can. They are designed for weight distribution and safety and are easy to move to the curb even when they are full. They are senior-friendly and roll easily on all types of terrain.

DOES THE BOROUGH OFFER A SMALLER CART SIZE? The Borough is offering an OPT-OUT PROGRAM. Residents who prefer a 65-gallon cart to a 95-gallon cart may request that alternative in advance. There is no charge for the smaller cart size. To help determine which cart size works best for you, please use this comparison; the 95-gallon cart holds 7-8 tall kitchen bags per week. The 65-gallon holds 4-5 tall kitchen bags per week.

****PLEASE NOTE IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE DPW BEFORE MAY 7TH YOU WILL RECEIVE A 95-GALLON TRASH CART****

ARE THE NEW CARTS ANIMAL PROOF? The new carts are the most animal proof available.

I ALREADY HAVE A ROLLING CART AT HOME, CAN I USE THAT ONE? No. Only those carts provided by the Borough can be collected by the automated garbage truck. Carts other than those provided by the Borough will not be collected.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY OLD TRASH CANS? Old trash cans can also be re-purposed for your lawn and yard waste. If residents prefer, old trash cans will be collected at the curb the week after your new cart has been delivered. Please mark the can as “Trash” and turn it upside down to be collected.

HOW DO I PREPARE MY TRASH CART FOR WEEKLY SET-OUT? Trash should be **bagged** before being placed in the cart. The cart lid must be **completely** closed when placed at the curb. Trash carts should be placed at the curb at least four (4) feet from obstacles such as mailboxes, telephone poles and any overhead obstructions. ***Cart handles and wheels should face the house and the lid opening should face the street.***

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH OVERFLOW TRASH THAT DOES NOT FIT INTO MY CART? Your new trash cart can accommodate as much volume as 3 to 4 standard-size trash cans. If you have a one-time overflow of trash, please hold it until your next regular collection day.

WILL COLLECTION OF BULK ITEMS (SOFAS, MATTRESSES, OTHER FURNITURE) CHANGE? Yes. Bulk items that are too large to fit inside your trash cart will be collected at the curb ***EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY*** of each month starting August 2021. Please reference the “Trash and Recycling Calendar.”

WILL LAWN AND YARD WASTE STILL BE COLLECTED? Yes. Lawn and yard waste will still be collected as scheduled. Yard waste can be placed at the curb in an open container, or in a paper yard waste bag. ***Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected. Please note that yard waste placed at the curb may not exceed 40 lbs.***

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY GARBAGE COLLECTION HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED? If collection is cancelled due to weather or other emergency, updates will be posted to the Borough website at www.penningtonboro.org. You can subscribe for E-Alerts on the website to receive notifications.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY COLLECTION DAY FALLS ON A HOLIDAY? Please reference the “Trash and Recycling Calendar” as well as visiting the website at www.penningtonboro.org or calling the DPW at 609.737.9440.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY GARBAGE WAS NOT COLLECTED? Cart containers shall be properly placed at the curb for collection no later than 7:00 a.m. on the collection day. If your cart is not collected on your collection day, please call the DPW.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY CART IF I MOVE? Carts are issued and owned by the Borough and must remain at the property/address to which they are assigned.

WHERE DO I PLACE MY CART IF I LIVE ON A STREET WITH A GREAT DEAL OF STREET PARKING IN FRONT OF MY PROPERTY? Carts should be placed at the curb at least four (4) feet from obstacles, including cars. If you park your car in front of your house, be mindful of the space required for the cart on collection day. If you need more guidance for your particular location, please call the DPW at 609.737.9440.

WHERE DO I PUT MY CART IF THE STREETS ARE SNOW COVERED ON MY COLLECTION DAY? Just like the United States Postal Service requests your mailbox to be cleared to receive their service; DPW is requesting the same. Residents should shovel a clearance wide and deep enough for their cart to fit without difficulty. The driver has the right to deny collection if they feel your cart is unsafe for pickup. Carts will not be collected and residents will not receive service if the cart is placed behind the curb line or on a snowbank.

ARE THERE ANY ITEMS NOT PERMITTED FOR COLLECTION?

- Recyclable products: www.mcianj.org/recycling
- Yard waste such as leaves, grass, or brush.
- Hot ash from fireplaces or fire pits.
- Any other hazardous, flammable, combustible materials; or materials such as oil-based paints, solvents, asbestos, or commercial medical waste.
 - Visit the Mercer County Improvement Authority website at www.mcianj.org to find the schedule for “Household Hazardous Waste/E-Waste & Document Shredding Events” or call the DPW at 609.737.9440.

**Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.
For additional questions, contact the Department of Public Works at (609) 737-9440.**