

FEBRUARY 2019

Question #6 – inclement weather

Dear Trash Talking Trish & Tabitha:

I have a few questions about weather-related garbage & recycling collection cancellations. First of all, in the case of last week's freezing rain, why wasn't my collection day (Wednesday) just postponed until the following day (Thursday)? A full week was a long time to wait and I had a LOT of extra items to set out. I have a big family & it was extremely difficult to store another week's worth of recycling. We are always at the maximum bag limit (3 bags) already and a week of extra garbage will set us way over the limit. I'd appreciate an explanation or some storage tips you can offer!

- K.F., Dunnville

Dear K.F.,

Welcome to CANADA and it's unpredictable weather! Not sure who ticked off Mother Nature but she sure hasn't been happy lately!

About the cancellation: approximately 4,000 households had their curbside collection cancelled on February 6th due to freezing rain. Modern Landfill Inc., our contracted curbside collection provider, sent trucks out on their usual routes but pulled them off the roads due to worsening conditions and concerns about driver safety. Now to address your questions:

1) Postponing your collection to the following day would not only affect you, but also Thursday and Friday's collection operations. That would increase the number of affected residents from 4,000 to 12,000! From a cost savings perspective, postponing collection by just one day would require Modern's workers to clock overtime (since Friday's collection would be moved to the weekend). Those extra costs impact you, tax-paying pals!

2) Haldimand does delay collection by a day on STAT holidays, but those days are methodically thought out beforehand, agreed to by all stakeholders and accounted for in the books for scheduling and budgetary purposes (\$\$\$).

3) In the case of a weather-related closure and you have to hold on to your garbage for an extra week, you get double the bag limit on your next collection day. For residential homeowners, that limit is 3 bags. Thankfully, in the winter, your food waste and garbage will freeze and not rot! Southern Ontario winters can be advantageous after all!

4) There's NO limit for how much recycling you can set out. PLEASE recycle to your heart's content! If you don't have enough room in your blue box, you can always place recyclable materials in a clear or blue plastic bag. Be sure to set these extra bags out BESIDE your full blue and black box.

Thanks again for the question! Please download the Recycle Coach App for recycling and garbage information (like schedule disruptions, special drop off days, etc). And for others, if you have any burning trash questions, please feel free to send them to our NEW email address:

waste@haldimandcounty.on.ca!

Sincerely,

Trash Talking Trish & Tabitha