



Celebrating our 34th Year! **OUR SERVICE VEHICLES ARE GPS MONITORED
AND RUN ON CLEAN NATURAL GAS!**

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4/9/18

Recycling and Trash Removal Services in The Town of Washington Grove

Beginning on Thursday May 3rd, Potomac Disposal will be using a “split body” or “double packer” compressed natural gas service vehicle to provide trash and recycle services.

Currently Potomac Disposal is using a “single packer” compressed natural gas service vehicle to pick up trash in one pass through the neighborhood, dump the trash at the county transfer facility, then return to pick-up all recycling in the same single packer service vehicle.

What are the differences between this process and the process beginning on May 3rd?

CURRENTLY

For trash:

With the single packer vehicle which is currently being used, the trash removal process is the same as always, all trash is loaded then taken to the county transfer facility.

For recycling:

All recycling is loaded together then taken to Georgetown Paper Stock on Southlawn Lane in Rockville. There, the mixed paper/cardboard material and commingled material is separated by hand. Because of this labor-intensive process, Potomac Disposal does not receive any rebate for the mixed paper/cardboard material brought to Georgetown Paper Stock. The mixed paper/cardboard material is loaded into a baler where the mixed paper and cardboard are separated and baled then shipped out for re-use. The commingled material (glass, plastic, aluminum and tin) is put into a pile then loaded onto trucks and taken to the Montgomery County Recycle Center. With this mixed system there is some contamination of mixed paper products due to liquids remaining in bottles and cans.

As of May 3rd

For trash and yard waste:

Trash will be loaded into the larger side of the split body packer service vehicle. One side is 60% of the packer capacity, the other is 40%. The 60% capacity is sufficient to handle the volume of the Town’s trash output. The other side or the 40% will be used for yard waste. After passing through the community, the truck will dump its trash load inside the county transfer facility then dump the yard waste in the yard waste receiving area at the county facility. The truck will then return to The Town of Washington Grove to pick-up mixed paper/cardboard recycling as well as commingled recycling.

For mixed paper/cardboard – commingled recycling:

Mixed paper and cardboard will be loaded into the larger or 60% capacity side of the split body packer service vehicle and commingled recycling or glass, plastic, aluminum and tin will be loaded into the 40% or smaller side of the split body packer service vehicle. Once the Towns services are completed, the mixed paper/cardboard will be dumped at Georgetown Paper Stock where GPS employees do not have to manually separate any material meaning Potomac Disposal will receive a small rebate for the mixed paper/cardboard recyclables. The material is loaded into a baler where the mixed paper and cardboard are separated and baled. The truck then takes the remaining load of glass, plastic, aluminum and tin to the county recycle facility. There is no contamination of mixed paper products using this system.

Notes

*Potomac Disposal was using a split body system earlier however the older model, diesel powered split body vehicles were becoming old and unreliable. As of May 1st Potomac Disposal will have the use of new compressed natural gas split body vehicles.

*During the winter months there will be little to no yard waste for pick-up so the crew may use both sides of the split body packer vehicle for trash or one side for trash and the other for commingled recycling on the first pass through the community as both are dumped at the county transfer facility. The truck would then return for the mixed paper/cardboard material then go to Georgetown Paper Stock on Southlawn Lane in Rockville.

*Should a trash load run heavy and the one side of the packer becomes full, the crew may use the yard waste side for trash if there has been little to no yard waste up to that point in the route.

*Because of the longtime working relationship between Potomac Disposal and Georgetown Paper, Georgetown Paper has been allowing Potomac Disposal to temporarily take mixed recycling to their facility. They do not normally accept mixed recycling.