

Frequently asked questions

Q. What is P.A.Y.T. (pay-as-you-throw) ?

A. Pay as you throw (pay-per-bag) is a system where residents must purchase specially marked City of Sanford bags for trash disposal.

Q. Where do I get the bags and how much will they cost?

A. Bags are \$1.00 for an 8 gallon, \$1.25 for a 15 gallon and \$2.00 for a 33 gallon bag. Bags will be sold at Hannaford, Shaws Supermarket, Shaw's Hardware, Aubuchon Hardware, Walgreens, Irving, High St 88, Save-A-Lot.

Other retailers will be added at a later date.

Q. When is this going to start?

A. The program will start September 16, 2013.

Q. Why does Sanford/Springvale need this program?

A. There are 3 major benefits to PAYT

1. It encourages more recycling thus reducing the city's disposal costs.
2. It fairly distributes costs proportionally among residents who create more trash.
3. Do you really want to pay for your neighbors trash?

Q. What happens if I don't use a special bag?

A. If trash is not in a special bag, it will **not** be picked up curbside and will **not** be accepted at the transfer station.

Q. Will the level of service change?

A. Trash will still be picked up every week on the existing curbside routes.
Recycling will be picked up **every** week beginning on existing curbside routes.

Q. Won't people throw more trash beside the roads?

A. Most communities that start a PAYT system see little to no increase in roadside dumping, and it generally lasts only a few months.

Most people do not notice trash (food wrappers etc) already beside the roads until a PAYT program starts in a community.

Illegal dumping exists in almost all communities but the majority of dumped materials is not residential in origin—it is usually bulky items (ie furniture, construction debris etc) that are not affected with a PAYT system.

Sanford Public Works will work closely with the Codes Enforcement office and the Police Department to identify and pursue any offenders.

Please call Public Works to report violators. (608-4140)

Q. What about large families that have a lot of trash?

A. Large households do not generally receive discounts on water, sewer, electricity, groceries or other services that vary by family size. Therefore, subsidies for large families are not well-justified. Buying in bulk to reduce packaging and an aggressive recycling program at home, and composting are some options for large and small families alike.

Q. What about senior citizens and people on fixed incomes?

A. Senior citizens (and anyone else) can use small "over the counter" bags until enough trash is accumulated to fill a PAYT bag. Some folks have suggested freezing food scraps to keep odors down until "trash day". A trash storage can with a tight fitting lid works well also. Upwards of 70% of household trash can be recycled.

Q. Isn't this just another tax?

A. Perhaps, but this is one that you can control unlike a property tax increase. PAYT is fair because everyone pays for their own trash disposal, not just the people that pay property taxes paying everyone else's disposal fees.

The more you recycle, the less you pay. Why should you pay for the piles of trash other people put out for collection?

Q. Is Sanford the only town doing this?

A. No. There are over 150 communities both large and small in Maine that have a PAYT program such as Portland, Bath, Brunswick, Gorham, Windham, Kennebunk, South Berwick, North Berwick, and Cumberland to name a few.

For more information call Sanford Public Works at 324-9135