

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## For all Lower Merion Township Solid Waste Collection Customers

### **In 2010, your Solid Waste Fees will change.** **Here's what you need to know:**

#### **Why are my fees going to change?**

Solid Waste Fees in Lower Merion Township have remained the same for ten years.

The Township's General Fund, or GF, has subsidized the cost to provide solid waste collection service for many years. After months of public discussion on this topic, the Board of Commissioners voted to eliminate the GF subsidy and adjust fees to achieve full-cost recovery for this service. These changes take effect on January 1, 2010.

#### **By how much will my fees increase?**

This answer depends on the level of service you subscribe to receive. Please review the following information carefully to help you make an informed decision when you receive your subscription mailing in early November.

This chart outlines the different fees to be charged. The basic one-container subscription will increase by \$62 annually, from \$192 to \$254. Each additional container will cost an additional \$50.

If you currently place your trash for collection at the curb, no further fees will be incurred.

Solid Waste Fee Subscriptions	2009 Fees	2010 Fees	Annual Increase
NEW 1 Mini-Can (20-gallon container)	n/a	\$179	n/a
1 Container	\$192	254	\$62
2 Containers	262	304	42
3 Containers	322	354	32
4 Containers	322	404	82
5 Containers	322	454	132
6 Containers	514	504	(10)
7 Containers	584	554	(30)
8 Containers	644	604	(40)
Rear Yard Collection Fee	n/a	200	200

#### **How does the Township define "curbside collection?"**

Curb-side collection is defined as any point within five feet of the curb line. Any collection point beyond five feet is considered an enhanced level of service, or rear-yard collection.

#### **What will be the cost to receive Rear-Yard Collection?**

Customers who prefer to place their trash further than five-feet from the curb line will now be required to subscribe to this service. The cost to receive rear yard collection will be an additional \$200 annually.

Citizens who *currently* receive rear-yard collection may opt to discontinue this level of service to avoid the \$200 fee.

Customers who do not subscribe to rear-yard collection will be expected to place their trash for collection at the curb line. Rear-yard trash containers will not be collected without a subscription for this enhanced level of service.

**Turn over for more information →**

### **What about households where no one is physically able to place their trash within five-feet of the curb line?**

A new program for 2010 would exempt qualified disabled homeowners who meet certain criteria from paying the fee to maintain rear yard collection service. Customers who wish to apply for this exemption should call the Township's Finance Department at (610) 645-6144.

### **Does the Township offer a Senior Citizens Discount?**

The Township currently offers Solid Waste customers that meet certain requirements, including income levels, a Senior Citizens rebate, which is 20% of the single container subscription. Applications forms are available on [www.lowermerion.org](http://www.lowermerion.org). Call (610) 645-6144 for more information.

### **How does the Township define a container size?**

Customers throughout the Township use many different sizes of trash cans. One standard container is defined as a container with a capacity of up to 45-gallons.

### **Are there any incentives to reduce trash disposal?**

Charging increased fees for each container set out for collection is an incentive for citizens to decrease the amount of waste generated at their household.

A further incentive to reduce trash disposal is the creation of a new "mini-can" option (see chart on front page). This option is available only to subscribers whose one-container level of service is a maximum 20-gallon capacity. The "mini-can" subscription level would actually lower the annual fee to \$179 for those choosing that option.

### **When will I choose my subscription level for 2010?**

Subscription cards will be mailed to customer's households in early November. Selections must be made and returned by December 4, 2009.

### **How can I learn more about the new Solid Waste Fee structure?**

A wealth of information on this topic can be found on the Township's website, [www.lowermerion.org](http://www.lowermerion.org). Follow the "Department" prompt to "Public Works—Refuse and Recycling."

The Solid Waste Collection Options link is a valuable resource, providing the background information and public presentations that led to the changes in the Solid Waste Fee structure. This information will help you make an informed decision as you choose your subscription level for 2010.

### **If I have more questions or need clarification, how can I get answers?**

Citizens with questions on the new SWF structure are invited to call the Township's Public Works staff at (610) 667-1952. You may also e-mail your questions to: [solidwastecollection@lowermerion.org](mailto:solidwastecollection@lowermerion.org).

The Township appreciates that change can be difficult and fee increases of any kind are never popular. In this case, the Township's solid waste fees haven't changed in *ten* years. Our goal will be to effectively communicate to ensure a smooth transition to the new fee structure.

While the Solid Waste Fee structure may be changing, one thing remains certain: the Township's dedicated refuse and recycling crews look forward to continuing to provide excellent service to you and your household in 2010 and beyond.