

HOW TO USE TAGS AND LABELS

Q: What are the options for trash disposal under PAYT?

A: You can dispose of trash either by the bag or by the barrel. In the "by the bag" option, each bag must have one bag tag affixed. In the "by the barrel" option, either the barrel must have a barrel label or the two bag tags must be affixed.

Q: How much do the tags and labels cost?

A: Each household receives 26 bag tags without charge. Additional tags are \$2.00 each. Barrel labels are \$65 each and are good for a 6 month period.

Q: How do the bag tags work?

A: Peel-off tags are affixed around the neck of bags or stuck to the top of bags. Any type of bag can be used (as long as it is strong enough for the weight of trash put into it.)

Q: How do the barrel labels work?

A: You write your address on the barrel label and put it on the outside of the barrel. It is good for trash collection over a six month period.

Q: How can I use the tags to get a barrel of trash collected?

A: You place two bag tags in a visible spot on the topmost item of trash in the barrel. When the collection crew removes the top of the barrel and sees the two tags, they will collect everything in the barrel.

Q: Where will I be able to buy tags?

A: It is expected that tags would be available from a number of local businesses, including supermarkets and convenience stores.

Q: How do I get my 26 tax-levy tags?

A: Each household will be given 26 tags without additional charge each year. These are called "tax levy" tags since they are paid for by the taxpayer (They aren't really "free"). The issuance of these tags helps the program get off to a smooth start and provides a basic level of service.

Q: Will there be any charge for recycling?

A: No. Since a goal of PAYT is to increase recycling, there will be no charge for materials put out for recycling.

Q: Will yard waste continue to be picked up without charge?

A: Yes. One of the goals of PAYT is to reduce the amount of yard debris that is mixed in with regular trash. So yard waste will be picked up without charge.

Q: Will the trash haulers or collection contractors be changed under PAYT?

A: No. Under PAYT, the same collection contract will remain in effect and the same trucks will pick up trash and recyclables.

Q: Will I have to sign up for a new trash collection service?

A: No. Residents will not have to sign any papers or fill out any forms when the new system goes into effect.

Q: Will everyone have to use the same size trash barrel?

A: Lexington is not considering a system that would require standard size barrels.

Q: How do I decide how many barrel labels I should buy?

A: Buying an extra barrel label is cost effective only if you routinely have enough trash to fill the barrel. Under PAYT most people will put out less trash than they currently do, so be careful not to overestimate your needs. If you underestimate, you can always use bag tags for the extra trash until you figure out exactly how many barrels you want to use.

Q: I want to use a barrel label, so what should I do with the 26 bag tags I receive in the mail?

A: You should keep a few bag tags on hand even if you use a barrel. They may come in handy when you have extra trash that won't fit in the labeled barrel. Remember that two bag tags can be used to pay for one-time collection of a barrel.

Q: What do I do if I am using a labeled barrel and I have more trash than normal and it won't fit in my barrel?

A: There are a number of options. You can keep a few bag tags handy for such occasions and put the excess trash in tagged bags. Or put two bag tags on top of the trash in an unlabeled barrel. Some people choose to simply keep the excess trash until the next week when their trash volume returns to normal.

Q: What about other bulky items that won't fit in a bag or barrel?

A: Under the currently proposed program, bulky items will not require tags, at least for the first year of operation. It is possible that tags would be required for such items in the future.

Q: What about big items like refrigerators, furniture, and TVs?

A: Under the current proposal, big items like household appliances and furniture will continue to be picked up at curbside without any tagging requirement. Television sets and any electronic item including a cathode ray tube (CRT) are banned from the trash by recent state regulations. CRTs must be taken to special collections that will be announced periodically.