

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Q: I haul with a truck that has a payload (rated capacity) of 1 ton or less. Does that mean I am exempt from the hauling requirements in Act 148?**

A: No. Effective **July 1, 2014**, all haulers regardless of the size or hauling capacity of their vehicle must obtain a solid waste hauling permit from ANR Solid Waste Program and must meet the hauling requirements in Act 148.

- 2. Q: Am I required to pick up recycling?**

A: Yes. As of July 1, 2015, the following listed recyclables are banned from disposal and all haulers of trash must offer collection of these recyclables:

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
- Glass bottles and jars from foods and beverages
- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs
- Corrugated cardboard
- Boxboard
- White and colored paper
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail and envelopes, and paper bags

Haulers may not charge a separate fee for recycling but may increase trash hauling fees to cover recycling costs. You may also subcontract these services to another hauler.

- 3. Q: Am I required to pick up food scraps and leaf/yard debris?**

A: Curbside haulers are no longer required to offer collection of leaf and yard debris but must offer food scrap collection services to nonresidential customers and apartment buildings with four or more residential units by July 1, 2020. Commercial haulers are not required to offer collection of food scraps if another commercial hauler provides food scrap collection

services in the same area and has sufficient capacity to provide service to all customers. Haulers may charge separate fees for this service and may also subcontract with another hauler to provide this service.

- 4. Q: If I run a bag-drop, what are my rules for food scraps and leaf/yard debris?**

A: All bag-drop or fast-trash haulers are required to offer seasonal collection services for leaf/yard debris from April 1 to December 15 and year-round collection for food scraps. As with your current fast-trash operation, you will be required to remove all trash, recycling, food scraps, and leaf/yard debris from your collection site by the next business day.

- 5. Q: Do I need to pick up recycling and food scraps every time I pick up trash?**

A: Recycling should be picked up at least as often as trash and in a container that is at least as large as the trash container provided. Haulers may choose to pick up recyclables along with, or alternating with, regular trash. While there are no rules for frequency of food scrap pickup, we recommend that haulers pick up food scraps on at least a weekly basis to reduce and discourage odors, insects, rodents, and wildlife. See the Parallel Collection Fact Sheet for further detail on frequency of collection.

- 6. Q: Is anyone going to enforce the landfill bans on recyclables, food scraps, leaf/yard debris and clean wood debris?**

A: Yes. The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) does have enforcement authority under 10 V.S.A. Section 8003(a), and some solid waste management entities may also have enforcement authority under local laws. However, education and outreach will be the primary method of implementing Universal Recycling.

7. Q: What happens if all our competitors don't offer collection of recyclables or food scraps as required by the law? Doesn't this give them a price advantage? And what can we do about it?

A: If you discover that certain haulers are not following the law, you can file a complaint with the Agency of Natural Resources.

8. Q: What can I do if my customer leaves banned material at the curb?

A: You have two options. You can leave the banned material at the curb along with a notice indicating why it's being left behind and instructions on what the customer needs to do in order for you to pick it up (i.e. sort the materials properly or put them back out on the designated day). Or you can pick up the material separately, provide a notice in your invoice that the materials were sorted improperly, and indicate if an additional fee has been added as a result.

9. Q: If my customers put banned materials in their trash and I haul it to the dump without knowing it, will I face a penalty, fine, or other actions?

A: No. The law only prohibits individuals and companies from knowingly disposing of banned materials in the solid waste stream destined for the landfill (dumpsters, trash cans, trash bags, etc). However, if you do dispose of banned materials with full awareness, you may be held responsible.

10. Q: What is, and is not, allowed in terms of customer fees for these new required services?

A: The Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) does not dictate hauler prices, but there are some general guidelines. (1) Haulers can't charge separate fees for pickup of Act 148 listed recyclables. (2) You can, however, increase your prices for trash collection to offset the cost of

collecting recyclables. But if you do this, you should clearly explain the cost increase to your customers, so your new rate structure is transparent. (3) You are allowed to charge separate fees for the collection of food scraps and leaf/yard debris. (4) All municipalities and haulers must implement unit-based pricing, in which charges to residential customers are based on the volume or weight of the trash collected.

11. Q: Will we be provided with educational materials on the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) to give to our customers?

A: Yes. There are educational materials posted at VTrecycles.com. When requested, ANR will distribute them to haulers to include in customer invoices, mailings, etc.

12. Q: I'm considering handling the pickup of food scraps and leaf/yard debris myself. What permits do I need?

A: You must obtain a Solid Waste Haulers Permit from the State of Vermont, and you must also comply with local hauler licensing requirements in your solid waste management entity.

13. Q: Is there any financial assistance available to help small haulers purchase equipment for hauling food scraps and leaf/yard debris?

A: There are no grants available at this time. But the Agency of Natural Resources will pass along information on potential low-interest financing opportunities as they become available. You might also check with your local solid waste management entity to see if they have any funding or financing options.

Contact your local solid waste management entity or town manager at 802recycles.com to learn more about local recycling ordinances and resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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