

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the rules for curbside pickup?

- All trash must be in bags. This excludes cardboard as long as it is broken down to 2' x 2' or smaller and bundled.
- Each household is limited to 5 bags per week without the orange Brewer trash tags.
- Each bag must be no heavier than 40 pounds.
- Bags larger than 30 gallons in size must be clear or translucent.
- Bags can be placed in containers.
- Residents can put out more than 5 bags by placing an orange Brewer trash tag on bags over the 5-bag limit.

If I need trash tags, where can I buy them and how much do they cost?

- Trash tags are available for purchase at Brewer City Hall, Brewer Public Library, or online at the following link:
<https://www.paylocalgov.com/Payment/ProvideDetails/1006006824?ind=0&referrer=FromSelectEntity>
- Trash tags come in sheets of 5. Each sheet is \$10.00 (\$2.00/tag).

When did these rules go into effect?

The curbside collection rules went into effect in July 2020.

30 gallons... 40 pounds... Do I really need to measure and weigh my trash?

No. The purpose of these standards is to provide residents a reference point for the upper limit of what is reasonable to place curbside. The bottom line is that bags should be easily manageable. They should be of a size and weight that the collection staff can readily pick up and toss into the truck.

The collection staff will not be measuring or weighing bags. They are professionals and can quickly assess whether a household's waste meets the standard of reasonableness.

Why am I limited to 5 bags?

Establishing a limit to the number of bags that can be placed curbside each week helps control the City's collection and disposal costs. It also discourages abuse of the program by people who might otherwise use unlimited capacity to dispose of commercial or other non-household waste.

The good news is that the majority of Brewer households put out one to two 30-gallon trash bags each week. In fact, in 2019, the average Brewer household placed less than 30 pounds of trash and recycling curbside for collection each week. The rules allow for five times that amount.

What about multi-units? Does the 5-bag limit apply to each address or each household at an address?

The 5 bag limit applies to each household at an address. If you live in a multi-unit (4 units or less), each unit/household is allowed the 5-bag limit.

Why do large bags need to be clear or translucent?

Clear and translucent bags are see-through, thus allowing collection staff to confirm that the items contained therein are acceptable per City ordinance and state regulations. The problem with large, opaque contractor-type and liner bags is that people are able to disguise a lot more unacceptable items in them than in smaller bags that typically are not as heavy duty. One can't easily hide a monitor or other universal wastes in a 30-gallon bag like one can in a 45 or 50+ gallon bag. Contractor-type bags are big and thick, making things like cans of paint, pool chemicals and cleaners, small demolition debris, etc. not easily detectible. Prohibited items not only pose a potential hazard for the collection crew, having too many of them in Brewer waste could result in penalty charges to the City.

What items are prohibited?

Per City ordinance, NO tires, NO yard waste, and NO demolition debris are allowed. Universal, hazardous, and biological waste are also prohibited. The full list is available at <http://brewermaine.gov/public-works/curbside-trash-recycling-collection/>

Why does cardboard need to be broken down to 2' x 2' or smaller?

The collection staff have found that larger than a 2' x 2' dimension requires substantially more effort and time to wrestle piles at the curb; it also seems to be the sweet spot for material wedging in containers. Cardboard that is not in bags adds to collection time and with cardboard markedly more prevalent now than in the past, the majority of houses have some level of cardboard the requires this additional collection step. Again, the collection crew are not the trash police; the 2' x 2' standard just gives a reference point for residents to keep in mind.