

2026 Pay As You Throw Trash Rates

The residential trash contract with Republic Services outlines a Pay as You Throw (PAYT) methodology. The goal of PAYT is to increase the percentage of price increments between trash cart sizes to encourage a reduction in trash and an increase in recycling. The intent is a gradual increase in price increments over time in order to reach effective PAYT incentives without a significant change in any one year.

Trash hauling fees include the collection cost (cost to collect the trash from the residential property), disposal cost (the tipping fee charged to the hauler to dispose of the trash at the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Center), state and county taxes (37.75%), and a City cart fee (\$.75). The collection cost is set in the contract and increases by approximately 5% each year (\$9.46 per cart in 2026).

The PAYT contract language allows the City to adjust the disposal cost of the trash only to create the price increments between cart sizes. To do this the total 2026 disposal revenue was calculated using the 9.23% increase in the disposal fee from 2025 (\$130 per ton) to 2026 (\$142 per ton) times the current number and size of carts (\$1,355,908). The disposal fee is adjusted to create greater increments, while retaining the 9.23% increase overall. The increments between cart sizes now range from 4% to 54%, depending on cart size comparison, with more of the disposal fees spread over the larger carts.

Republic Services does the billing for the residential trash service. Bills include two months of service and are sent to residents bi-monthly. Following is a chart comparing the 2025 overall bi-monthly rates, the proposed 2026 bi-monthly overall trash rates using the PAYT methodology, and the increase in bi-monthly trash rates from one year to the next. **The City Council approves the 2026 overall trash rates.**

<i>Cart Size and Service Level</i>	<i>2025 Overall Bi-monthly Trash Rates - collection, disposal, taxes, cart fee</i>	<i>2026 Overall Bi-monthly Trash Rates - collection, disposal, taxes, cart fee</i>	<i>Bi-monthly Increase in Overall Trash Rates from 2025 to 2026</i>
20 gallon every other week	\$26.89	\$28.13	\$1.24
20 gallon every week	\$27.99	\$29.14	\$1.15
35 gallon every week	\$34.00	\$35.02	\$1.02
65 gallon every week	\$51.08	\$53.75	\$2.67
95 gallon every week	\$65.13	\$70.69	\$5.56