



How Severe Weather Affects Waste Collection

Weather is an element we cannot live without, whether it is the spring rains that bring in much needed moisture, or the warm sunlight that helps crops to grow. Most weather conditions, even when severe, do not have a major affect on our ability to service our customers. We regularly work in extreme heat throughout the summer, or heavy rains during the spring. However, there are two major weather conditions that can adversely affect your trash collection: **wind and snow.**

The severe snow storms of late December served as a real eye opener for many city officials, business owners and especially waste haulers. While we have encountered many such storms through the decades, few were as crippling.

SNOWY DAYS

In March of 2003, our area was hit with a storm that left 24 inches of snow. The December 2006 storm left us with almost 30 inches of snow. Storms of this magnitude greatly affect how we pick up trash for several reasons. Visibility and icy road conditions greatly increase the amount of time that is spent on route since drivers must operate their vehicles with a much

greater measure of caution. Collection vehicles are extremely heavy and slide easily as speed increases. Safety is an extremely important issue to our company and reckless driving under any condition is not tolerated.

Snow removal efforts are mainly directed towards the major thoroughfares in our area. Residential streets are often plowed several days after the storm or not plowed at all. When these streets are left unplowed, collection vehicles may sink into the snow and become stuck, since they must stop and start on each street numerous times. Drivers often must try to maneuver around abnormal obstacles, including cars that are stuck in the streets and large snow drifts.

When there is a major snowstorm, there is only a limited amount of space to pile up the snow around commercial businesses, especially since retailers value every parking space. Under these circumstances, snow is often plowed in front of the trash dumpster or enclosure. When this happens, it becomes nearly impossible to remove the dumpster from the enclosure or move the dumpster to the truck, since even the smallest dumpsters we service weigh nearly 400 lbs empty. The addition of snow or ice, especially if it has had the opportunity to thaw and refreeze, increases the possibility of injury to personnel and further decreases container mobility.

WINDY DAYS

All state regulated landfills are mandated to close when sustaining winds reach 30 miles per hour. These landfills try to provide the trash haulers with as much advance notice as possible as to when the landfill will close. At times, though, that could be as little as fifteen minutes notice. When the landfills close, trash collectors can only continue to operate until they fill all of their collection vehicles. If the windy conditions continue into the next day, the landfills remain closed and our collection efforts remain on hold until we are able to dump our trucks. Gallegos Sanitation has been known to transport trash to other landfills or transfer stations within the state in an effort to continue operating. Still, landfill closures are beyond our control.

During the December 2006 snowstorm, Gallegos Sanitation made every feasible attempt to service everyone reasonably accessible. High winds lead to the closure of area landfills the first few days of the storm. Only about 25% of Friday, 12/23/06 routes were completed. Weekend customers were notified and, where access was available, services were completed both Saturday and Sunday. Recycling collections were postponed for the week following the storms and trash collection resumed Tuesday following Christmas and was caught up in all urban areas by the end of the week before the New Year's holiday. Many areas still remained at least partially obstructed in the days that followed.

Please understand that due to these extreme conditions, trash collection becomes nearly impossible. When it becomes unsafe for us and when we cause safety issues for others, we will cease operations until conditions allow. We are firmly committed to completing our routes every day so we assure you that we will make every possible attempt to make it happen.



Recyclable Items for 2007

The following list are items designated as Recyclable materials through our residential curbside collection program for this year. Please note proper preparation instructions. You can download an updated recycle guide from our website.

Acceptable Curbside Recyclables

- **Type 1 and 2 plastics** (milk jugs, pop bottles)
- Green, Amber, Clear Glass
- Aluminum & other Metal Cans (Aerosol Cans okay)
- Office Paper & Newsprint including inserts
- Junk Mail, Magazines & Catalogs
- Cardboard & Paperboard including pizza, cereal, shoe and beer boxes, egg cartons, papertowel/ toilet paper rolls

Be sure to remove all pumps, sprayers, lids or caps from bottles and rinse them thoroughly. Do not include plastic tubs or plastic grocery bags, tissues, lightbulbs, window or plate glass, or cookware.

Aerosol cans should be completely empty of all contents. **Remove any promotional stickers, credit cards, membership cards or other non-paper items from junk mail.**

Please be sure to break down boxes along the folds and place them in your recycle bin or in a box next to and no larger than your recycle bin. Do not "smash" them flat. Cardboard boxes should NOT EXCEED 2'x2' but may be cut down to meet size requirements. Do not include any packaging materials such as Styrofoam, plastic, or packing paper.

Do not include any containers for food storage, fast food, pesticides or herbicides, solvents, paints or adhesives, medical supplies, flower pots or garden plastics, or toys.

REMEMBER: ITEMS THAT DO NOT FIT THE PREPARATION STANDARDS MAY BE LEFT OR COLLECTED BY THE TRASH CREW AT AN ADDITIONAL FEE.



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Just a Few Reminders

➔ Are you a Yardwaste Recycler? Why not try our seasonal curbside Yardwaste Collection Program? Service starts the first week of May and runs through October. This past November these participating customers received a free Leaf Drop-off. We provide a 65-gallon cart but you can recycle up to 100 gallons per week for one small fee! All GSI customers living within Fort Collins or Windsor are eligible to participate. Signup now to ensure equipment availability.

➔ Please be aware of the danger created by snow and ice left on your sidewalk or driveway. Be sure to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks around your trash pickup area on your service day. Secure lids to trash containers, and secure recyclable materials throughout the fall and winter, since we frequently encounter high winds. During extreme weather conditions including high winds, you may want to hold your recyclables an extra week to ensure they are not carried away. Place trash and recycle containers in an area that is highly visible from the street, and avoid using white trashbags on snowy days.

➔ Remember to put your services on hold if you are planning a vacation that lasts more than a week.

➔ Would you like to let our customers know about your locally-owned business? We are considering including a company profile of a different locally-owned business customer each quarter in this newsletter. If you are interested in learning more, contact our office.

➔ Are you recycling at work? Your employer may not be aware of these optional services. Whether your needs are large or small, we provide services tailored to fit the exact needs of your business. Contact our commercial sales department for more information or to set up services today!

HOLIDAY ALERT!

Area Landfills are closed every year on the following holidays:
New Years Day - Memorial Day - Independence Day - Labor Day - Thanksgiving Day - Christmas Day

For 2007, if your pickup day falls ON or AFTER the following holiday **during the regular work week**, your normal pickup will be **delayed by one day**:

Memorial Day	Monday, May 28 th
Independence Day	Wednesday, July 4 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 3 rd
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22 nd
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25 th
New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1 st