The Town of Falmouth has a “pay-per-bag” trash collection system. Residents purchase “town” trash bags to place curbside for pick up, only paying for what they throw away. The bag fees offset the costs of the curbside collection service, which is primarily paid for through property taxes. The Town contracts with Pine Tree Waste (also known as Casella) for trash and recycling collection services.

General Rules for Curbside Collection
Trash and recycling bins MUST be placed at the curb by 7:00am on the scheduled pick-up day. Trash will only be collected if it is in a Falmouth yellow trash bag. You can use any trash barrels, bins, or cans by placing the yellow bag inside the can, fill it with your trash, and TIE the bag before placing it at the curb. Yellow trash bags can be purchased in two sizes at:

- Hannaford - Falmouth, Portland (Forest Avenue & Riverside) and Yarmouth
- Shaw’s - Falmouth, Portland (Northgate)
- Market Basket (Westbrook)
- Eldredge Lumber (Portland)
- Rosemont Market & Bakery (Falmouth)
- Town Landing Market
- Waldo’s General Store

Collection Schedule
Collections take place in Falmouth Tuesday-Friday. The map above shows the collection routes each day. You can find a more detailed schedule by street at: www.falmouthme.org/public-works-department

Holidays & "Snow Days"
Generally, if your collection day falls on New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day, collection for that day will be moved to Saturday. For example, if New Year’s Day falls on a Friday, trash collection for that day will take place on Saturday, January 2. The Town of Falmouth sends E-Alerts and posts to its website and social media pages when holidays impact collection schedules.

Casella rarely cancels collections due to inclement weather. Roads would have to be nearly impassable. A snow day at school does not impact garbage collection. It’s best to assume collections will take place rather than miss a pick up. The Town will work to notify residents if trash or recycling collection is canceled due to weather.

Bag & Bin Placement
Bins and bags must be placed at the end of the driveway or on a plowed sidewalk, parallel to the street, to be picked up. This can be tricky during heavy snow events. Bins and bags covered in snow will not be collected, nor will bins and bags set part way up the driveway, even if the driveway is plowed. Some residents prefer to hold their items until the
following week if their collection day takes place during or right after a heavy snowstorm. Trash and recycling can also be brought to the Transfer Station for disposal during opening hours.

**Bulky Items**
Some bulky or large items (weighing up to 100 pounds), that will not fit into a yellow trash bag, will be collected on the scheduled pick up day with an appropriate disposal ticket(s) affixed. Call the Public Works Office at 781-3919 for more information regarding which items can be collected curbside. Green disposal tags can be purchased at:
- Falmouth Town Hall
- Falmouth Public Works Office
- Hannaford-Falmouth
- Shaw’s-Falmouth
- Town Landing Market
- Waldo’s General Store

**Recycling**
Place your loose recycling curbside in an appropriately marked recycling bin. Recycling that is contained in plastic bags will not be collected. Plastic bags jam the sorting machines at the recycling facility. Remember to include only recyclables in the recycling bins. Waste haulers will not a collect a bin of recycled materials if they spot contamination. Visit www.ecomaine.org if you have questions regarding what can and cannot be recycled.

**If Your Trash & Recycling Is Not Collected**
If your bins and/or bags were placed curbside by 7:00am but not collected, you may call Pine Tree Waste/Casella (our waste haulers) directly at their Customer Care Line at 207-883-9777. This is the most direct way to discover what issue prevented your pickup. If you have further questions or concerns, you may also call the Public Works office at 207-781-3919.

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**The 7am Rule**
The most important thing to remember is that bins and yellow trash bags must be placed curbside by 7:00am on collection days. While your trash and recycling may usually be collected later in the day, this is not a definitive schedule put in place by our waste haulers. Though on most days the drivers complete their routes at relatively the same time, many factors can impact when they will arrive at your house on any given day. Having your items out at 7:00am ensures that you are not missed. Let’s take a look at what impacts pick-up times.

- Inclement weather may slow down the collection. On the other hand, collectors may finish the route more quickly if several residents opt not to put their bins out during a storm.
- Substitute drivers may choose to start or end a route at another location than the one your regular driver uses. These changes could affect pick up times.
- Drivers in training may start at another location where it is easier or safer to conduct training. New drivers can also be slower resulting in an altered pick up time.
- Obstacles in the roadway could prevent the truck and collection staff from proceeding safely. Our waste haulers are charged with making sure that their vehicles and employees are conducting operations safely. In some cases, if a route cannot be completed and the schedule allows, Casella may add that route to its collections schedule the following day. Examples of roadway obstructions include:
  - Road construction or private construction at someone’s home (such as painters, driveway pavers, contractors etc.) can result in vehicles or machinery on the roadway. The driver may get to your home earlier or later due to detouring from a construction area or may not arrive at all if a particular street is impassable.
  - Vehicles parked where collection trucks turn around may prevent the driver from maneuvering the truck safely without causing property or vehicle damage. In this case, your home may be skipped. Leaving these areas clear on collection days and not parking in turnarounds is a huge help to everyone in the neighborhood to ensure timely collections.

**More Information**
Find more information and additional resources at: www.falmouthme.org/public-works-department