

Dear Resident:

Over the past several weeks, our community and Mid Michigan Waste Authority (MMWA) has received a number of calls from residents expressing concerns with enforcement of the curbside solid waste program existing rules regarding allowable trash can sizes and weights.

MMWA serves as the solid waste service system administrator for 35 communities across the area. The vendor who provides solid waste collection services noted a growing number of oversized cans in use around the MMWA service area. To remind residents that trash cans and bags must not exceed 33 gallons and 50 lbs each, a resident curbside education project was adopted. The Authority has implemented a number of these curbside education efforts over the past decade, as over time, some residents forget the garbage can size/weight limitation rules and larger cans creep into the program.

The resident curbside re-education project was rolled out to all MMWA member towns at the start of July. The project consists of a **1, 2, 3, You're Out** process. Oversized trash cans are stickered with an orange tag noting the problem, but the materials are still collected for the first 3 weeks. If the oversized can(s) are still in use the 4th week, they are tagged and the contents left.

However, it seems apparent, based on the number of calls received, that this size limit had not been consistently enforced by drivers across the entire MMWA service area. Keeping to the program's size and weight rules is very important, as even the next can size up (44 gallons) is a 33% increase over the allowed size. All MMWA member communities provide their residents with standard refuse service. Trash, yard waste and recyclables are collected manually, with cans and bags lifted chest high and thrown into a hopper on the front of the truck. A single Authority route driver routinely collects 5 to 15 tons a day. Oversized cans mean more weight and increase the driver injury potential. That is why the program has the 33-gallon can/bag maximum.

***Materials set out in cans or bags larger than 33 gallons will no longer be collected as of the last service day in September 2011.*** Orange tags will be placed on non-compliant materials until that time to remind residents to use the proper containers.

We hope our residents will support this effort and adhere to the program rules. Consistent enforcement is necessary to manage collection services to 203,000 residents equitably, efficiently and economically, while also ensuring the safety of our vendor.