



## BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

401 Fox Chapel Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

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*[www.fox-chapel.pa.us](http://www.fox-chapel.pa.us)*

Dear Resident,

The Borough of Fox Chapel is the only community in the area that provides garage door pickup of household waste and recyclables. Residents must haul their garbage and recyclables to the curb on collection days in other communities. Because of this exclusive service, contract specifications must be agreed upon with the contractor and the Borough to provide this customized collection. These consistent pickup specifications must comply with Pennsylvania DEP regulations. Attached is a letter from Vogel Disposal Service that outlines the pick up provisions.

We understand residents have collection concerns from time to time. Below are some common concerns, reasons for specification, and suggestions for alleviating the issue.

### **CONCERN:**

Garbage is not picked up due to a **blocked driveway**.

### **REASON FOR SPECIFICATION:**

The garbage truck must have clear access to the garage door. The collection driver is responsible if he hits the vehicle or other object in the driveway or damages the grass or shrubs while trying to avoid the vehicle or entity in the driveway. Therefore the driver will take a photograph of the blockage and skip pickup.

### **SOLUTION:**

Remind others, including contractors, not to block the driveway and be sure the driveway is clear up to the garbage containers. Resident can place waste containers at the curb on collection day or put the containers behind the vehicle in the driveway, so it is directly available to the driver.

### **CONCERN:**

Garbage is not picked up due to the use of **contractor bags**.

### **REASON FOR SPECIFICATION:**

Contractor bags are often too heavy to lift as they have exceeded the 45-pound weight limit. Haulers cannot test each contractor bag to determine if they exceed the weight limit as there are 1967 households in the Borough. Contractor bags also take up too much room in the smaller garbage trucks, filling the trucks quickly. The driver will photograph the contractor bags and not take those items.

### **SOLUTION:**

All garbage must be in a tied bag before placing it in the container. Bags need to be 33 gallons or less and cannot weigh more than 45 pounds.

### **CONCERN:**

**Recycling was not picked up because it was bagged** instead of loose in the green Borough-supplied recycling container.

### **REASON FOR SPECIFICATION:**

The single-stream recycling equipment cannot open the bag, and the plastic bags jam the equipment. Plastic bags are not recyclable and should not be included. The driver will take photographs of the bagged recycling and not take those items.

### **SOLUTION:**

Place loose, cleaned recyclables in the Borough-provided recycling container. Materials must be dry.

**CONCERN:**

Cardboard is not picked up because it was not broken down and flattened.

**REASON FOR SPECIFICATION:**

Cardboard must be flattened to fit in the smaller trucks. Cardboard must also be flattened to fit properly and be processed in the single-stream recycling equipment. Haulers pick up garbage and recycling from 1967 households each week in all weather conditions. Time prohibits the ability to break down boxes at each home. The driver will take a photograph of the cardboard and not take those items.

**SOLUTION:**

Break down cardboard boxes as they are received and place them in the Borough-supplied recycling containers or beside the container for pickup. Please remember that the hauler cannot pick up wet cardboard. Recyclable material that is wet cannot be recycled.

**CONCERN:**

Garbage is not picked up due to snow or ice-covered driveway.

**REASON FOR SPECIFICATION:**

If a garbage truck slides off the driveway and causes damage to the property or the truck, the driver is responsible. Snow and ice put the hauler at risk of slipping and falling while collecting garbage and recycling. Even a dusting of snow can be problematic. The driver will photograph the driveway's condition and skip pickup.

**SOLUTION:**

Have the driveway clear of snow and ice by 7 AM on collection day, or place waste containers at the curb.

In addition to the garage door service, residents of the Borough are provided with the opportunity to take recyclables such as glass, steel, and broken down cardboard boxes to the bins behind the Borough Building from 10 AM until 4 PM Saturdays and Sundays. A compactor for household waste, not including food, is also available during these times.

Recycling containers with lids are available at the Borough Building Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*The Borough of Fox Chapel*

Attachment: Vogel Disposal Service Letter