

In this discussion, we will look to breakdown a typical double pick-up day. This breakdown can be done to all five of our routes, but for this purpose, we will only include two days. We will explore Monday's double route first and also look at Thursday's double route, which is later in the week. Secondly, we will look into the trash and recycling services we provide here in Aston compared to other local municipalities. Thirdly, we will look into the benefits of double pick-up as far as alleviating strong odors and varmint and pest control. Finally, we will look into the cost of double pick-up and its effects on our vehicles (wear and tear and fuel consumption).

Let's break down a couple of double pick-up trash routes, starting with Monday. Monday's double route day consists of Monday's trash, Thursday's trash and Monday's recycling. Monday's trash route is the largest area in town with approximately 26 miles of road. The mileage of each route was calculated many years ago when they were reconfigured to make them geographically feasible and for each route to have approximately the same amount of homes to service. In other words, mileage differs with each route, but the number of houses picked on each route, are similar. Now let's continue with Monday's route. Monday's route takes 3 trucks approximately 3.5 to 4.5 hours to pick, depending on amount of trash. The second leg of Monday's double route is Thursday. Thursday's route is approximately 11 miles and takes 3 to 3.5 hours to pick, using 3 trucks. Finally, Monday's double route concludes with the pick-up of Monday's route's recycling. As we know it is approximately 26 miles long, the recycling time is approximately 2.5 to 3 hours. The total time for Monday's double route can range from 8.5 to 11 hours. The total mileage is 63 miles. The break down is approximately 20 miles of stop and go travel for each truck, this mileage does not include trips to the trash and recycling dumps.

Thursday's double trash route consists of Thursday's trash, Tuesday's trash and Thursday's recycling. Thursday's trash route, as stated previously, is approximately 11 miles. The time to pick this route is less time because of being picked 3 days prior. Time is approximately 2.5 to 3 hours. The second leg of Thursday's double route is Tuesday's trash. Tuesday's route is approximately 13 miles. Since Tuesday's route was picked two days earlier, picking time is shorter at approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. The third leg of Thursday's double route is Thursday's recycling. The time needed for Thursday's recycling is roughly 2 to 2.5 hours. The total mileage is 35 miles. This is approximately 10 miles per truck, which also does not include driving to the trash and recycling dumps.

So, in two days of double pick-up, we have increased our mileage by 25 miles and times by 5 to 6 hours. This means in the two double pick-up days each truck is running 8 more miles of stop and go driving. Running of the trucks for an additional 5 to 6 hours, in just these two days, substantially increases wear and tear on our vehicles and fuel consumption costs.

The second subject we will explore are the services received by our residents and costs of fees. Aston Township has lived by the motto, "if we can get it to the curb, the trash guys will get it!" See attached photos for examples. In these photos, we will break down the costs and fees associated with common trash stops and compare our fees to other neighboring municipalities. I will break down three photos to show that our residents get more for their money than other towns in our area. Some annual trash fees in neighboring towns include Chichester at \$240, Haverford at \$283 and Marple at \$300.

In photo #1, the trash stop consists of a couch, love seat, chair, headboard, small table, four (4) mattresses or box springs and various other items (notice there is NO house hold trash in this picture). A trash pile of 9 items like this would cost a resident \$90.00 in Marple. If there were to be 10 items, this would be considered a "clean out" and would cost \$125.00. In Haverford Township, their policy is 1-5 items is \$22.00 per item. Since this stop has nine (9) items, it is considered a "clean out" and would cost \$122.00 to pick-up. Any item over 10 items is an additional \$22.00 per item. In Chichester, this pile would be picked-up at no additional charge but they will only take two (2) items per trash day. Therefore, it would take 4.5 weeks to pick-up all of these items. In summary, our current system would pick up this trash stop 4.5 weeks faster and save our resident added fees between \$90.00 and \$122.00.

In photo #2, the owner passed away approximately two (2) years ago and the house sat vacant during that time. Last fall someone started to clear the house and garage of all its contents. This photo represents one of eight (8) times this resident abused our sanitation department services as the entire house was placed curbside. In Marple, this stop would cost \$125.00 each of those eight (8) weeks. Total cost would be \$1,000.00. In Haverford, this stop is \$122.00 for each stop which equals \$976.00. Chichester would sticker the stop and request that the resident rent a dumpster. In Aston, zero additional charges.

In photo #3, you will see there are building materials placed curbside. Building materials, fencing, hot tubs, pianos, concrete, bricks, wooden sheds and wooden swing sets are not taken by other municipalities. As long as these items are cut to lengths to accommodate our truck, our fee includes all of these items.

Like Aston, other neighboring municipalities offer a metal collection service. In Haverford, up to three (3) small metal items are picked up for free. Larger items such as a washer/dryer, refrigerator, stove, etc. would cost the resident an additional \$22.00 per item to be picked up. In Marple, the cost is \$15.00 per metal item. In Chichester, two (2) metal items will be picked up on their designated metal day. The other items would be stickered and left. Each town handles the pick-up of TV's and small appliances differently, but the one thing they share is that they all have additional fees. In Aston, no additional fee for our residents for metal pick up of any size or any TV or small appliance.

The next topic is to discuss issues that concern our residents regarding trash pick-up. Odor and potential varmints and pests are the likely the main concern of our residents and rightfully so! During the warmer months, we create more household garbage which tends to lead to more pests. If we look at our double pick-up routes we will see that the second pick-up day does not "fix" our odor or pest issues. For example, Monday's route will be picked on Monday and Wednesday every week. There is only a 48 hour period between these two (2) pick-up dates which is ideal for no foul odors or varmints. Following Wednesday's pick-up there is a period of five (5) days until their trash is picked up again. During this time is when we will likely see more issues with trash odors and critters. Thursday's and Friday's routes benefit the most as they have periods of 3 and 4 days between pickups. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday's routes have periods of 2 and 5 days between pickups which are not ideal. Towns like Haverford, Marple and a few others work on a double pick-up schedule of Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday for household trash and Wednesday for recycling. I feel this scenario does not fit our current needs as we would need two more trash trucks with crews. Also with this scenario, their sanitation workers collect metal and yard waste items that are also scheduled for pick-up. In Aston, our Highway Dept. collects metal and chips branches to account for its yard waste recycling.

The other argument that our residents will have will be, "we pay taxes or you raised our taxes and you are taking something away". I'm not going to lie, as this statement is pretty much 100% fact. Another fact is that our "trash/recycling" fees are separate from our Township taxes. This fee covers all trash/recycling costs. This year our fees were raised approximately \$29.00 per household largely because of an increase in County fees and the increasing price of diesel fuel. Currently our fees are very comparable to surrounding townships but with zero extra charges! In my opinion, if educated properly, our residents will realize that they are getting "the best bang for their buck!"

In closing, I feel overall we provide an excellent service for our residents at a reasonable cost. The 11 (eleven) weeks of double pick-up equates to only 11 (eleven) more pick-ups a year. Those 11 (eleven) weeks add what amounts to an extra 11 (eleven) weeks of trash a year. Our trucks are on the road for "63" weeks a year, for a total of 315 days a year. So every 5 (five) years of double pick-up adds 1 (one) full year (truck life) to each vehicle. This means that our trucks are aging at a faster rate. Chichester also slows the aging process of their vehicles by having 6 (six) trucks to complete trash and recycling. This equates to 156 usage days a year which is half of what we expect from our 3 (three) trucks. Once again, "if you get it to the curb, we'll take it!"



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