

# Residential Garbage and Recycling Services

## Spring 2022 Rate Notice

### Frequently Asked Questions



#### RATE QUESTIONS

##### What is the proposed rate change for FY 2022-2023?

The proposed rate increase is 8 percent for Single-Family residents. See Table 1 for monthly and annual costs.

**Table 1 – Single-Family Proposed Garbage and Recycling Rates**

Garbage Cart Size	Current Monthly Rate	Proposed Monthly Rate FY 2022-23	Annual Cost FY 2022-23*
32-Gallon Garbage Cart	\$45.77	\$49.43	\$593.16
64-Gallon Garbage Cart	\$91.54	\$98.86	\$1,186.32
96-Gallon Garbage Cart	\$137.31	\$148.29	\$1,779.48

\*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

##### Why are rates changing?

San José's Residential Garbage and Recycling service rates cover the expenses of providing residential solid waste services. Garbage and recycling services must be self-supporting and cannot be supported by property taxes or other funds. Rate increases support contractual cost increases, including annual cost of living adjustments for expenses such as fuel and labor. Growth in housing developments also contributes to increased contractual expenditures. The solid waste agreements provide weekly residential garbage, unlimited recycling and yard trimming collection and processing; unlimited junk pickups; processing of garbage to remove recyclables and organics/ food waste for composting; single-family motor oil and oil filter on-demand collection; and landfill costs. Rates also cover City Call Center staffing, billing and payment services, program administration and customer outreach.

The City of San José recognizes that these are unprecedented and difficult times. This notice identifies the highest potential garbage and recycling rate changes; proposed rate changes may be lower when presented to Council for approval.

##### Why are we having another rate increase again this year? Didn't we just have a rate increase last year?

Single-family garbage and recycling rates increased 17 percent last year. Contributing factors to last year's rate change included:

- Higher contractual costs, specifically increased costs related to recycling processing.
- During stay-at-home orders, materials in the recycling bin/cart increased by about, on average, fifteen percent.
- The current pricing for solid waste contractors expired and new pricing became effective July 1, 2021.

### How much have rates changed in the last few years?

Prior to last year, rates increased by an average of 10.3 percent for three years. See Table 2 for more information.

**Table 2- Single-Family Historical Rate Changes**

Fiscal Years	32-Gallon Rate	Percentage Increase
FY 2021-22	\$45.77	17%
FY 2020-21	\$39.12	9%
FY 2019-20	\$35.89	5%
FY 2018-19	\$34.19	3%
FY 2017-18	\$33.19	5%

### How do San José rates compare to the other cities?

Currently, San José Single-Family garbage and recycling rates are not the most expensive system in Santa Clara County, and the rates are below those charged in Oakland and San Francisco. Services included in the garbage and recycling rates vary from city to city. Unique to San José, residential services include unlimited recycling and yard trimmings collection, unlimited junk pickup collections, and used oil collection. Table 3 provides a comparison of single-family garbage and recycling rates to other cities in the Bay Area.

**Table 3 - Single-Family, 32-Gallon Rate Comparisons**

Regional Jurisdictions	FY 21-22 Monthly Rate*
San Francisco	\$56.50
Oakland	\$52.36
Palo Alto	\$50.07
<b>San José (Forecasted)</b>	<b>\$49.43</b>
Santa Clara	\$49.05
<b>San José (Current)</b>	<b>\$45.77</b>
Fremont	\$42.23
Sunnyvale	\$38.85
Hayward	\$36.63
Concord	\$35.14

\*Excludes rate increases for 2022-2023 from other jurisdictions that are not yet known but anticipated

### Would all garbage and recycling service fees change?

No. There are no proposed changes to the Pickup of Contaminated Recycling Cart rate, the Lost, Stolen or Abused Cart Rates, or the Extra Garbage Sticker rate for FY 2022-23.

**Will there be another rate change next year, too?**

Possibly. The need for rate adjustments is evaluated each year and depends on a number of factors such as contractual costs increases.

**How is On-Premises Collection affected?**

Residents who subscribe to On-Premises Collection Service would see monthly fees increase by up to 8 percent. The current on-premise collection charge is \$139.04 per month for a 32-gallon garbage cart service level, and would increase up to \$150.16 per month in FY 2022-2023. See Table 4 below for how this affects total service rates. Rates are calculated by adding the on- premises collection service fee to the basic garbage cart size rate.

**Table 4 - Single-Family On-Premises Collection Service Rates**

<b>Garbage Cart Size</b>	<b>Current Monthly Rate</b>	<b>Proposed Monthly Rate FY 2022-23</b>	<b>Proposed Annual Rate FY 2022-23</b>
32 gallons	\$139.04	\$150.16	\$1,801.92
64 gallons	\$184.81	\$199.59	\$2,395.08
96 gallons	\$230.58	\$249.02	\$2,988.24

**ECONOMY QUESTIONS****Why change rates now?**

Rate changes are needed to make garbage and recycling services self-supporting, so that taxpayer funds will not have to be diverted from other important needs. A rate increase would support contractual cost increases, including annual cost of living adjustments for expenses such as fuel and labor.

**Will money from solid waste rates be used for other projects elsewhere in the City?**

Your garbage rates pay only for garbage and recycling services, junk pickups, yard trimmings, motor oil and oil filter recycling, and composting programs. The funds that are used for garbage and recycling services, and those used for capital projects such as buildings or park development are not interchangeable. Property taxes provide General Fund monies that support most other City services. Rate increases and cost management bring the garbage and recycling program to cost-recovery.

## **CART QUESTIONS**

### **What if I want to downsize my current garbage service to save money?**

If you are able to consistently recycle more items, you may be able to reduce your garbage cart size. However, you must be sure that your garbage cart lid closes fully for collection. If it does not, you will have to purchase Extra Garbage Stickers, which cost \$6.25. Extra Garbage Stickers may be purchased at participating Lucky and Safeway stores in San José, and at San José public libraries.

### **Can I share a cart with my neighbor to save on the garbage and recycling costs?**

No. Shared service is not available for detached Single-Family properties. (Title 9, Chapter 9.10.455 of the Municipal Code).

## **SERVICE QUESTIONS**

### **Can I cancel my garbage service?**

The City Municipal Code requires mandatory weekly garbage service to protect public health and safety; garbage service cannot be cancelled. The City maintains an exclusive system to monitor service provision, which keeps costs down and ensures quality services citywide to protect public health. Mandatory service minimizes illegal dumping.

### **I'm a property manager of an apartment complex. How can I encourage residents to recycle better or cut down on our garbage service fees?**

Call GreenTeam, the garbage and recycling service provider for your complex, and ask them to schedule an assessment of your garbage service needs. They also can provide bin and dumpster labels, and enclosure posters to help residents do a better job. Their phone number is (408) 282-4400.

### **How can I find recycle right information and increase clean, recyclable materials to keep costs low?**

Visit [www.SanJoseRecycles.org](http://www.SanJoseRecycles.org) to find over 300 items from a searchable database.