

TRASH FEES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The recent effort by the City to collect delinquent trash fees has generated a number of questions. Because Mayor and Council are concerned with minimizing any unnecessary hardships on Chester residents, the City has instituted an amnesty plan to waive the interest and penalties on past due trash bills through 2008. As a result, Chester residents who received one of the recent past due billings may be eligible to have the penalties and interest indicated on that bill forgiven. In addition, those who have a hardship in paying for the past services received may be eligible to enter into a payment plan. **Residents can pay the principal amount due from past years of service or enter into a payment plan with the City by August 14, 2009.** The City already exempts senior citizens, age 65 and older who make less than \$15,000 per year, from paying the trash collection fee. Senior citizens must apply for this exemption each year through the Treasurer's Office.

When do I receive my trash fee bill?

All property owners in the City of Chester are billed the annual trash fee in early March for trash collection services delivered by the City. This trash fee appears on your real estate tax bill.

I didn't receive a trash bill, why not?

If you pay real estate taxes through your mortgage company, the real estate tax/trash fee bill is held in an escrow account by your mortgage company. If you have questions and/or are concerned as to whether your real estate tax/trash fee bill was paid, contact your mortgage company and ask for an annual escrow analysis statement.

How long do I have to pay this bill?

Residents have until June 30 to pay both the current year trash fee and real estate tax, which appear on the same bill. If the bill is paid by April 30 of the current year, residents receive a two percent (2%) discount.

What happens if I don't pay my real estate tax/trash fee bills on time?

If the real estate tax/trash fee bill is not paid by June 30 of the current year, a ten percent (10%) penalty is added to the base amount due. Interest on the delinquent amount is added at a rate of one-half percent (0.5%) of the unpaid balance per month until paid in full. Residents can still pay this bill locally at Chester City Hall until February 15 of the following year. Thereafter, **ONLY THE REAL ESTATE TAX PORTION OF THE BILL** is forwarded to the Delaware County Tax Claim Bureau (TCB), located at the Delaware County Courthouse, for collection as required under state law.

How do I pay my trash fee, once the bill becomes delinquent?

After the delinquent real estate taxes are sent to the county Tax Claim Bureau (TCB) on February 15, residents will still need to pay their trash fee at City Hall. The TCB does not collect trash fees and residents should contact the Treasurer's Office in Chester to arrange for payment of the trash fee.

If I have a payment plan set up with the Delaware County Tax Claim Bureau (TCB) for delinquent real estate taxes, am I paying the trash fee as well?

No, the TCB only collects delinquent real estate taxes, along with interest and penalties, as required by state law. The trash fee delinquency is never forwarded to the TCB so it is not included in any payment plan.

What if I can't pay my real estate taxes/trash fees in one lump sum?

If you have difficulty paying your current year real estate taxes/trash fees, please contact the City Treasurer's office who can arrange to accept partial payments during the course of the year. For example, you can make arrangements with the City Treasurer's Office to make installment payments on your 2009 real estate tax/trash fee bill which you received in March until February 15, 2010.

For any further questions about trash fees or the City's amnesty program, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 610-447-7801.

