



# *Manure Hauling in Rolling Hills Estates*

## Frequently asked questions and answers from Waste Management

Upon the conclusion of a 13-year exclusive franchise agreement with Waste Management, the City Council approved a renegotiated exclusive franchise agreement with Waste Management, effective October 1, 2018, for residential and commercial solid waste, recycling, organic, manure and construction debris collection services.

The City has partnered with Waste Management to develop the following FAQs to provide you, our equestrian community, with information regarding manure collection and rates.

For more information and the services offered by Waste Management, visit [www.keepingrheclean.wm.com](http://www.keepingrheclean.wm.com) or contact Waste Management directly at **(800) 774-0222**.

## *FAQs*

### **Why are we seeing manure rates increase?**

There are many costs associated with the proper, safe and environmentally compliant handling of manure. Some of the most notable costs that are factored into the rates include collection, transportation and third-party composting costs. Over the years, the number of third-party composters that handle this material has also decreased. Prior to the currently approved rates by the City, manure rates were regionally extremely low and operating costs exceeded previous pricing structure.

### **It seems different people are paying different rates for the same size bins. Why is this?**

Charges are based on the bin size and collection frequency, which could be different if for example, neighbor A receives service twice per week and neighbor B receives service once per week.

### **Is there anything horse owners can do to help reduce the cost of the manure disposal services?**

Requesting a waste assessment from a Waste Management representative to review right collection container size and service frequency is one of the ways to identify possible cost-savings. Additional measures include opting to bin share among neighbors to share costs.

### **What happens to the manure after you pick it up? Where is it taken?**

Once manure is collected, it is taken to the Waste Management Carson Transfer Station. From there, the manure is transferred to Viramontes in the City of Chino where it is composted. Taking the material to the Transfer Station first and then transporting it in larger volumes via large trailer trucks is more cost effective than directly transporting the material to Chino once it is collected.

### **Is any of the manure composted?**

Yes, all clean, non-contaminated manure collected by Waste Management in Rolling Hills Estates is composted.

### **Can Waste Management help residents set up their own composting programs?**

Unfortunately, since manure is highly regulated no composting program currently exists.



## **Are there any reasons why it would be unadvisable to compost then spread our horses manure around our own properties?**

Manure contains microorganisms that are naturally present in the gut of an animal, some of which are pathogenic. Some pathogens in manure are zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted between animals and humans. When these pathogens are transferred to humans, they can cause illness (e.g. Salmonella spp., E. coli O157:H7, Listeria). Regulated commercial compost facilities are required to Process To Further Reduce Pathogens (PFRP). These standards require composting feedstock piles to reach 131 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 15 consecutive days. While home composting systems are great for reducing waste from backyard green waste and table scraps, they simply cannot reach these temperatures in order for PFRP.

Additionally, in keeping compliance with the City's Stormwater Pollution Prevention program the City of Rolling Hills Estates and neighboring cities on the Peninsula must take special measures to target and eliminate the discharge of specific pollutants: trash, bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorous. As a result, the City commits resources and has established policies to protect the quality of our local waters from urban runoff and direct pollution.

The Peninsula agencies are striving to meet required nitrogen and phosphorus limits in the stormwater that flows off the Peninsula. Both nitrogen and phosphorous can cause algae blooms and subsequent die-off which depletes oxygen in the water and harms aquatic life. Nitrogen and phosphorus from manure that is not properly maintained can be especially problematic. Therefore, the City's solid waste ordinance requires that composted manure be contained within an enclosed container.

Phosphorus is not reduced by composting. Nitrogen is converted in form when composted (from ammonia to nitrates or organic nitrogen), but total nitrogen which is what the Peninsula agencies have to monitor, is not significantly reduced by composting. While both "nutrients" remain in the composted manure and can be used as fertilizer, the City's experience is that many properties have more fertilizer than can be used for their own property. As a result, these excess amounts often end up in stormwater contributing toward exceeding allowable limits.

Additionally, the City has addressed concerns with residents who do not use manure compost properly resulting in violations of health code and city ordinance (i.e. spreading it on the ground, dumping it in canyons, etc). The City staff continues to educate the community on proper manure disposal and composting through its public outreach and code compliance efforts.

To help alleviate concerns of manure entering into the storm drain system, the City strongly encourages residents to utilize the services of the contracted waste hauler, Waste Management, so that the manure can be sent to a commercial composting facility where it can be appropriately recycled.

## **Could we have a community forum to discuss these issues with the equestrian community in general?**

Prior to the new rate structure approval by City Council, members of the City Council and Equestrian Committee and Community met to discuss changes to the manure program pricing. The City of Rolling Hills Estates Equestrian Committee "reviews and advises the City Council on specific items of concern within the City's equestrian community, including the use of horse arenas and trails."

## **How do Waste Management rates compare with other local trash collection companies? It seems that they are much higher based on a casual perusal of the internet.**

WM's rates are regionally competitive for services offered in RHE. There are a number of programs which WM operates for the City of Rolling Hills Estates and it's residential and business communities to ensure compliance with local and state regulations. From running smaller, lighter trucks in the city to comply with RHE municipal code weight restrictions, to utilizing the most technologically advanced materials recovery facilities (MRFs) yielding higher recovery rates and participating in energy transformation programs to increase diversion. It is important to note that on the surface rates may be deceiving because solid waste programs are often not equal and hard to compare.

## **How much higher will our manure rates increase?**

Manure rates saw out of the ordinary increases to recover costs within the new contract effective November 2018. These increase were effective November 2018, July 2019 and July 2020. Beginning July 2021, rate increases will be based on regular CPI adjustments.

