

Shutesbury Trash Bag Policy

Adopted by the Select Board November 21, 2023

Each Shutesbury household is annually allotted a maximum of 50 free Town of Shutesbury trash bags (5 x 10-bag packs). Bag distribution by Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) volunteers begins at Annual Town Meeting (the start of the “trash bag year,” officially the last Saturday in April) and continues several times each week through June at the recycling shed in front of Shutesbury Elementary School and at the Lake Wyola Association Meeting. Dates and times for bag distribution are listed on the RSWC webpage and are sent out via town-wide emails. After July 1st, allotments are available at Town Hall during normal working hours. Residents are encouraged to pick up their trash bags during the scheduled distribution period to minimize the workload for Town Hall employees. Reasonable accommodations may be made for residents who are unable to pick up their trash bag allotment during the posted distribution schedule. Any accommodation request should be addressed to the Recycling Coordinator at recycling@shutesbury.org. Accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Given that the number of free bags per year is estimated at ~1 bag per week, the number of bags allotted after the normal distribution period are pro-rated according to the approximate number of weeks left in the “trash bag year,” as follows:

After last official distribution date: 40 bags (4 packs)

After October 6th: 30 bags (3 packs)

After December 15th: 20 bags (2 packs)

After February 10th: 10 bags (1 pack)

Landlords and Tenants

When new owners or new tenants move into their Shutesbury homes, they are entitled to 50 free Town of Shutesbury trash bags less one bag per week since the last Annual Town Meeting. Landlords are responsible for supplying trash bags to their tenants. If tenants move out mid-year and new tenants move in, the property owner is responsible for providing the new tenants with enough trash bags to cover the weeks until the next Annual Town Meeting.