

County Connection for Week of 12/05/2018

By David Smitherman

Pittsylvania County Administrator

“Differences between compactors, green boxes”

Since our convenience centers have begun being manned, we have noticed that a lot of the questions that our attendants get asked are repetitive ones. One of the most asked questions is, what is the difference between a compactor and an open top box?

Open top boxes are your typical, large dumpster. They have no lid, true to their name, and have to be transported as is, no matter what is in them when they are full. These are best used to hold large, rigid objects like appliances or furniture - things that are large and heavy. When you throw bag trash or empty cardboard boxes into these boxes, they fill up that space quickly, but they aren't heavy enough to make the trip worth it for our trucks. Throwing away loose or light trash in these boxes also leads to a higher amount of litter coming off of the top of these trucks as they make their way back to the landfill.

The compactors are similar to the open top boxes, except that they have a mechanical arm that crushes everything that comes into it. This allows them to have five times the capacity of the open top boxes, as long as they are used properly. One of the reasons that our compactors failed on Thanksgiving is due to lumber getting caught in the mechanical section of the compactor.

Because we can fit so much more into these compactors, it makes them significantly less expensive to transport and deal with once it gets to the landfill. They also make it a lot easier for you to use them as a customer of our convenience centers, because you don't have to break down your boxes - these compactors will crush almost anything. Emphasis on almost! Please don't put anything in the compactor that you wouldn't try and crush or break down yourself.

On Monday, the Blairs Convenience Center starts getting locked at night. Hours for all of the manned sites will be from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. instead of the 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. that they had been open for. We hope this will help people that work at companies where you have to be at work at 7 a.m. and also help our attendance to be home before it gets treacherous on the roads during the winter season.

We also hope that those who use our green box sites have noticed how clean they are and give some credit to Wayne Dolan for keeping those clean on a daily basis. We couldn't operate these sites without the fantastic employees like Wayne.

As always, I'm ending with a question for you, the reader. Is there a way that these attendants could help you when you go to the convenience centers? Is there something you'd like to see us change? Do you have suggestions for what we should add to our convenience centers to make your experience better? Share them with us!