Local 61
Garbage Cart Data
2006-2009

Typical all plastic cart in use throughout most of the city.

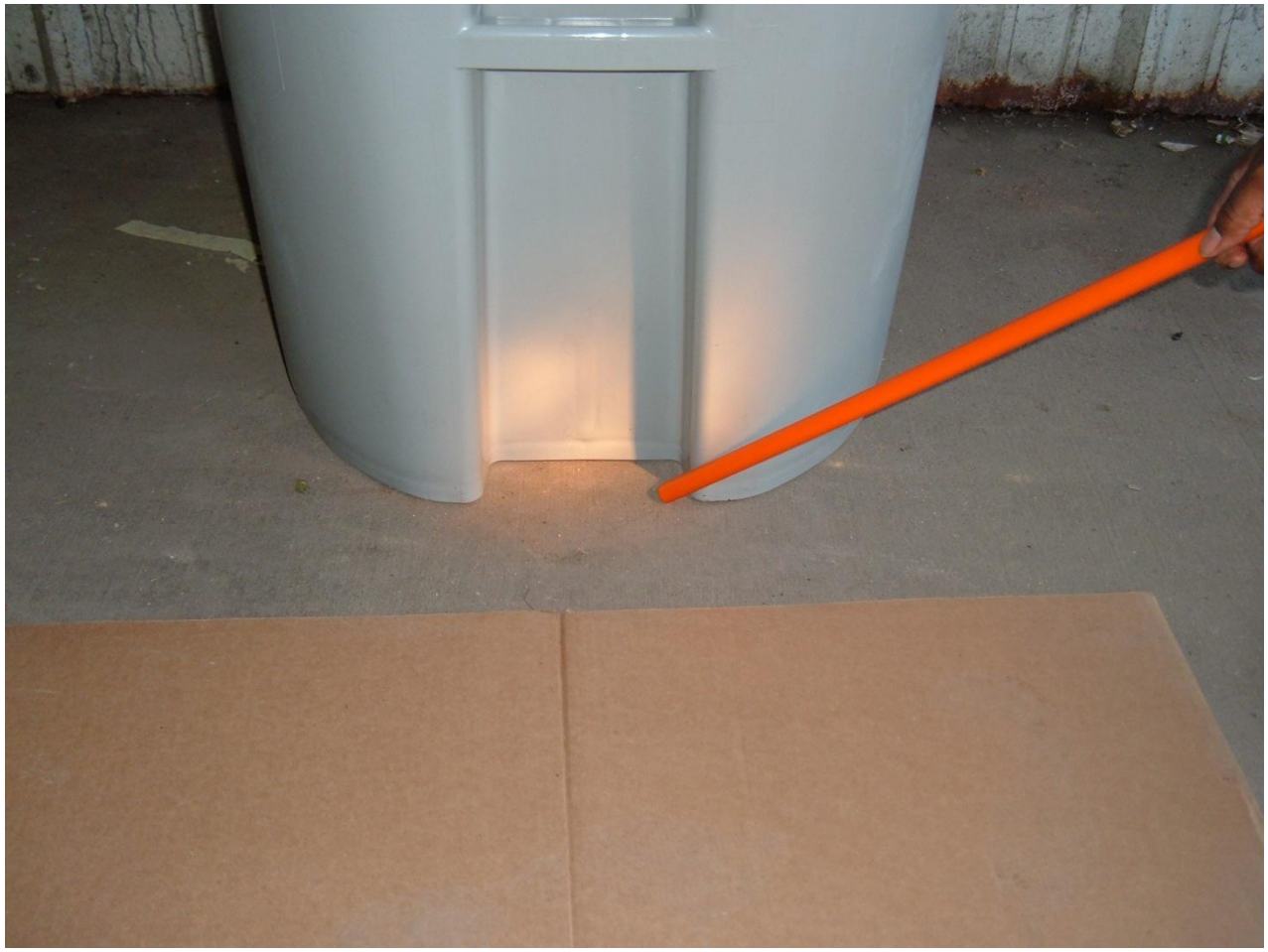
Wheel Clearances: The design for wheel clearance is unacceptable – Leaves, frozen mud, snow and ice build up and freeze in between the wheels and the fender housings causing one or both wheels to lock up while dragging the cart down the driveway.

Wheel Clearances: This model has even less clearance. No problems in warm climates but very problematic in areas with below freezing temps where snow and ice will freeze and attach to the wheels. When the cart is pulled in this condition it is extremely difficult for the worker.

Note the fender overhang and lack of wheel clearance.

Zarne Cart: This cart had wide open wheels and was absent of all fender wells which eliminated almost all obstructions from jamming the wheels from turning. Moved unrestrictive in all types of weather.

Another huge reoccurring problem is the cart bottoms freezing to the ground surfaces. This style cart has an extremely large flat surface area making it a prime candidate to adhere to the ground when placed in a wet environment and temperatures drop below freezing. It is very hard to break loose from frozen ground without cracking the plastic wheel housing causing wheel to fall off.



If you are successful in busting loose the cart from ice chances are the plastic wheel housings will crack and the wheel will fall off.

The Zarne carts were equipped with two rubber pads on the front corners of the cart that provided a gap between the cart and the ground preventing it from freezing.

The picture on the left shows the Zarne cart has a clearance of four inches when tipped for transportation, whereas, the picture on the right shows the grey carts have a one and a half inch clearance.

Note the ground clearance on the Zarne cart on the left compared to the grey cart on the right.

Much higher ground clearance specifications

Not enough ground clearance

Note the upper hook up lip and the lower lock bar are constructed of all molded plastic. This plastic will snap away from the body during the dumping process when the cart is on the heavy side and both upper and lower sections will actually snap off and allow the cart to be thrown on cold days. Once either portion breaks away this cart is rendered useless.

Lower bottom molded lock bar – snaps under a load, snaps in the cold and will snap if hooked up to an older style flipper. Limited area for bottom lock hook to grab.

The upper & bottom bars were made of metal and would not snap or break off on cold days and if damaged they were easily replaced in the field. The bottom lock hook on the flipper had a larger area to grab on to the cart

This cart must be set almost perfect onto the flipper in order to hook it up properly. This is very difficult to achieve when you are working in an unplowed alley with large frozen tire ruts present. The cart must be precisely manuevered and tipped forward in order to compensate, sometimes requiring the help of another worker. Once the cart is positioned to be lifted you must now hold it in place and reach with your other hand to activate the lever/button to lift the flipper. This is very hard on the back, shoulders and wrists.

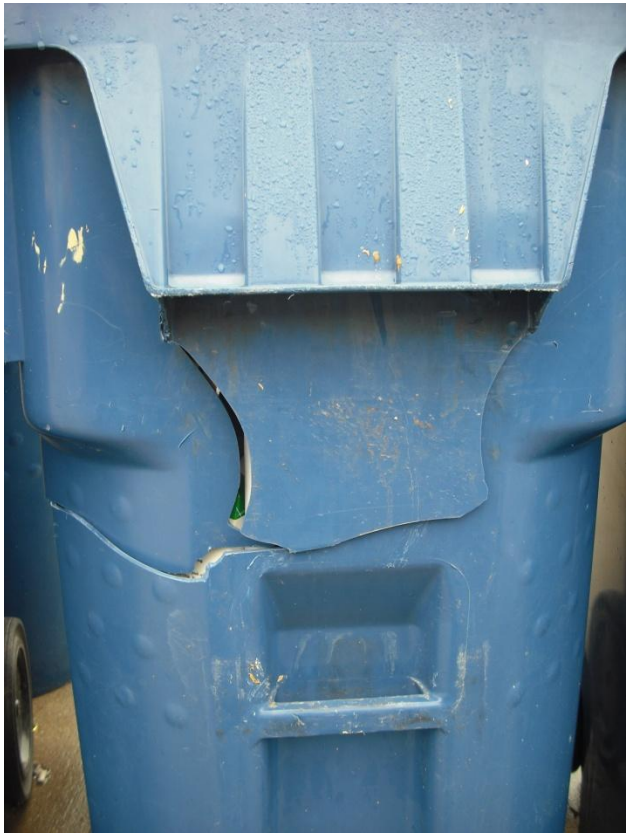
The upper & bottom bars were made of metal and would not snap or break off on cold days and if damaged they were easily replaced in the field. The bottom lock hook on the flipper had a larger area to grab on to the cart they did not have to be centered on the flipper in order to dump the cart.

Note on the Zarne cart that the bar runs the entire front of the cart allowing the flipper to grab hold of the cart at any angle no matter if it's centered or off to the left or right.

The Zarne cart on the left has an ample amount of room in the handle to accommodate a thin summer glove or a thicker winter mitt. On the grey cart the handle area is much tighter and very hard to fit your hands between in order to grab when you have either thin summer gloves or thick winter mitts on. This is compounded when there is excess garbage in the cart which prevents the lid from closing therefore, pinching the top of the hands.

On the grey cart the handle area is much tighter and very hard to fit your hands between in order to grab when you have either thin summer gloves or thick winter mitts on. This is compounded when there is excess garbage in the cart which prevents the lid from closing therefore, pinching t the top of the hands.

Repairing damaged carts: On the Zarne carts the handles and both upper and lower bars were replaceable in the field. On the other hand, when the grey carts get damaged, whether it's the handles, the hook-up point or the bottom bar, it's damaged beyond repair



Both extremely low temperatures and excessive weight have a tendency to break the bottom plastic bar rendering the cart useless.

This shows the newer style flipper. Note the upper hook up lip and the lower lock latch.