

CURBSIDE COLLECTION SAFETY TIPS

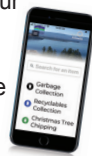


You may not think much about what happens to your garbage, recycling or yard waste once you place it at the curb for pick up on your collection day. The thing is it takes a lot of dedicated staff to make sure your waste ends up safely disposed at its final destination. Behind your pick-up is a team of dedicated collection vehicle drivers. At the recycling facility, where your material is dropped, there is a vast squad of workers standing along the sort line, and at the landfill there is staff directing trucks, moving material and running heavy equipment. All materials placed at the curb come into contact with a great deal of waste personnel and equipment. That's why it's so important for all of us to do our part to help make waste collection workers jobs safer and easier by following some of these basic steps:

- Always properly dispose of household hazardous waste.** Propane cylinders/tanks, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs/tubes, electronics, and chemicals are all considered hazardous materials and should never be disposed of in your recycling, garbage, or yard waste carts. Hazardous materials pose a serious safety risk to collection staff, collection vehicles, and disposal facilities and can cause fires at the landfill and recycling sorting facility. There are many options to safely dispose of hazardous materials in the region.
- No needles.** Never put needles in your blue recycling cart or in your garbage cart. Place needles in a puncture proof, sealable plastic or metal container and drop off at a participating pharmacy, or designated needle drop off location.

- Face masks and gloves cannot be recycled.** Household medical waste (medical and first aid supplies including face masks and gloves) should be double bagged in plastic, tied, and placed in the garbage, never in your recycling cart.
- Keep it light.** 120 L garbage carts should not be heavier than 50 kg, 240 L yard waste or recycling cart must not weigh more than 100 kg. Large 360 L carts should be kept under 113 kg. All material should fit into the cart and should not be packed so tight that it does not release easily.
- Park off the street.** If possible, park vehicles off the street on your waste collection day. If you are unable to move your vehicle off the street, ensure your vehicle is at least 1 m (3 ft) away from any waste containers set out for collection. This ensures collection vehicles can easily tip your cart without running the risk of damage to your vehicle or the collection truck.
- Rinse recyclables.** Recyclable containers that have food residue smell, grow mold and invite pests and rodents to not only your recycling cart but to the recycling sorting facility. Please give food containers a quick rinse before putting them into your recycling.

It is important to know how to sort your materials and determine what goes where in order to avoid contaminating any of the waste streams, garbage, recycling or yard waste. When in doubt about materials accepted in your curbside carts, you are encouraged to download the free Recycle Coach app, visit rdco.com/recycle, or call the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250.469.6250.



Recycling Guide

A Message from the Regional Waste Reduction Office

Good News! More items are now accepted for recycling.

What Goes in Your Recycling Cart – Put these items loose in your cart, do not bag them

To the curb by 7am

NO PLASTIC BAGS ALLOWED

Paper, envelopes, magazines, catalogues, paper bags

Cardboard and boxboard boxes

Shredded paper (put in paper bag or box and add to your cart)

Single use items such as plastic straws, plastic cutlery, paper party decor, paper plates

Paper and plastic drink cups and lids

Plastic packaging & food containers

Non beverage Gable-top and Tetra Pak cartons

Spiral-wound cans for chips, juice etc.

Frozen dessert boxes

Foil wrap, containers and plates

Metal cans and lids (with labels)

Empty aerosol cans (no paints, chemicals)

Plastic clamshells and trays

Recycle at Depot Only – Do NOT put these items in your recycling cart, take them to a Depot for recycling only

Styrofoam containers, trays, packaging

Flexible Plastics: Plastic bags, overwrap, chip bags and snack wrappers, zipper bags and pouches, mesh bags, bubble wrap, **NEW** squishy foam packaging and more

Non-refundable glass jars and bottles

What Stays Out of Your Recycling Cart – Leave these items out

NO Garbage

NO Hazardous Waste
Take to a Recycling Depot

NO electronics, appliances
Take to a Recycling Depot

NO soft or hard cover books
Donate to charity

NO hard plastic toys
Donate to charity

NO Tupperware containers
Donate to charity

NO clothes, textiles
Donate to charity



Regional Waste Reduction Office
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or download the Recycle Coach App

Scan Me for info!

