

Curbside Collection Frequently Asked Questions

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General FAQs

Is my property included in the Curbside Collection program?

Properties with single-family dwellings or rowhouses and townhouses of two (2) or more units fronting directly on to a City owned and maintained roadway, where occupants bring their containers and bags to curb, are included in the program.

Excluded are contained and detached suites, multi-family residences (such as apartment and condo buildings), and commercial, industrial, and institutional (ICI) properties.

The City has an [opt-in application](#) process for residential properties with dwelling types or suites that are not included. Opt-in applications will be reviewed and may receive the curbside collection service if determined to be eligible. Curbside collection fees will be applicable to properties approved to receive collection services.

Refer to [Bylaw 4281 - Curbside Collection of Refuse, Recycling, Food Waste and Yard Waste](#) for specific details regarding which properties are included and the opt-in application process.

Refer to [Bylaw 2498 - Fee for Services](#) (Schedule B, Appendix 10) for details about the curbside collection fees.

Do suites receive their own collection?

As noted above, suites are not automatically included to receive curbside collection but are entitled to share the service with the primary household. Property owners wishing to have separate curbside collection for their suite(s) can complete the [opt-in application](#).

For suites sharing the service with the primary household, refer to the information under “**How much material can I put out for collection?**” (page 2) for options on how to deal with extra food waste and garbage. Recycling and yard waste are unlimited.

Please review this [information sheet](#) for the options available to properties with suites.

Can I opt out of the program?

No, the Curbside Collection Service is mandatory for all eligible households. The Curbside Collection Fee is charged annually on property tax bills as a separate line item.

I leave Salmon Arm for several months of the year - do I need to pay the full amount for Curbside Collection?

Yes. The City is unable to monitor the length of time a property is occupied so there is no reduction in the annual fee even if you do not make use of the program for a period of time each year.

What services are provided?

The curbside collection program includes the collection of the following waste streams:

- **Weekly food waste collection**
- **Bi-weekly garbage collection (alternating with recycling collection)**
- **Bi-weekly recyclables collection (alternating with garbage collection)**
- **Monthly yard waste collection from April to November**

The Food Waste, Recycling, Garbage and Yard Waste FAQ sections below also have for more detailed information for each of these waste streams.

How much material can I put out for collection?

The limits for each waste stream are as follows:

- **Garbage:** One garbage bag or garbage can every second week containing a maximum of 10 kg (22 lb).
 - Garbage cans must be no larger than 120 litres in volume
 - Garbage must be bagged even if a garbage can is used, however multiple individual bags can be put in a garbage can up to the weight limit
- **Food Waste:** One City-branded food waste green bin containing a maximum of 10 kg (22 lb) of food waste every week.
- **Recycling:** Unlimited quantities in bins every second week:
 - Recycling must be loose in bins – bagged recycling is not permitted
 - Each bin must not weigh more than 10 kg (22 lbs) and be no larger than 120 litres in volume
 - Do not put lids on your bins as this slows down collection and lids can get lost or broken. It also allows the collection staff to quickly identify recycling as the City doesn't mandate the use of blue recycling bins
- **Yard Waste:** Unlimited quantities when yard waste is collected:
 - The yard waste collection schedule will be provided annually in the Curbside Collection Program Guide and through the Recycle Coach app
 - Yard waste (including small branches) must be put out in paper yard waste bags, with each bag weighing no more than 20 kg (44 lb)

Review the Curbside Collection Program Guide available on the Curbside Collection web page for details about each waste stream.

What if I have more waste than the limits allow?

These are the options for dealing with amounts exceeding the garbage and food waste limits. Recycling and yard waste are unlimited.

- **Food Waste:**
 - For **occasional** extra food waste, purchase food waste bag tags:
 - Each \$3 tag allows an additional 10 kg (22 lb) of food waste.
 - The food waste tags are compostable stickers that can be applied to bags of extra food waste (extra food waste must be contained in paper or certified compostable plastic bags).
 - There is no limit to the number of extra bags of food waste with tags that can be put out for collection each week.
 - For **regular** extra food waste, consider opting-in for an additional food waste collection:
 - Additional food waste collection currently costs \$60 annually, plus a one-time purchase of the City of Salmon Arm green bin for \$30 + tax.
 - The annual fee is charged through property tax billing as a separate line item.
- **Garbage:**
 - Purchase garbage bag tags.
 - Each \$3 tag allows an additional 10 kg (22 lb) of garbage in a garbage bag.
 - There is no limit to the number of extra bags of garbage with tags that can be put out on garbage collection weeks.

Bag tags can be purchased City Hall or the SASCU Recreation Centre, or [online](#) and the City can mail them to you.

Does the City provide the necessary containers?

The City provides the following containers to eligible new homes, and to resale homes where bins were not left by the previous owner, or for approved opt-ins for curbside collection:

- A kitchen catcher (8 L) for food waste collection in the kitchen which can be lined with paper or compostable plastic food waste bags.
- A City-branded green food waste bin (57 L) that is put out at the curb for collection (do not put the kitchen catcher out at the curb).
- One blue recycling bin (83 L):
 - If additional recycling bins are required, they are to be purchased or provided by residents - the City does not sell recycling bins.
 - For maximum flexibility, the City does not mandate a specific type of bin, as long as they are no larger than 120 litres in volume, weigh no more than 10 kg (22 lb) when full, and are put out for collection without a lid.

- It is preferable to have more bins with less materials (i.e. not overfilled or packed too tight) as this ensures they can be easily lifted and emptied, prevents damage and keeps recyclables from littering the environment.
- Garbage cans are optional (but recommended) and are to be purchased by residents – the City does not provide these.
 - Garbage cans must be no larger than 120 litres in volume.
 - See pages 16 and 17 below for information regarding **problematic garbage cans** – please **avoid** using these types.
 - Garbage must be bagged even if a garbage can is used, however multiple individual bags can be put in a garbage can up to the weight limit.

Keep track of your containers by labeling them with your address!

What if I'm not home when my containers are dropped off?

Containers are delivered to your home by the City's curbside collection contractor (typically on Fridays) and will be left near the house in an appropriate location. Delivery will be scheduled when you will be able to retrieve and securely store the bins within a day or two of delivery.

How do I find my Zone and Collection Day?

The collection zones and schedule are in the current year Curbside Collection Program Guide (PDF) available on the Curbside Collection web page can also use the Recycle Coach app to look up your schedule by address. On the Curbside Collection web page scroll down to the Waste & Recycling Information section and click on the My Schedule tab. Do not include your unit number (if you have one) when searching for your address, just use the street address (e.g. if your address is #10-500 2 Ave NE, search for 500 2 Ave NE). If you do not see your address, please email info@salmonarm.ca and the City will have the address added if it is eligible for curbside collection services.

You can also download the Recycle Coach app for your mobile device to get your address-specific collection schedule, collection reminders and a detailed what-goes-where search tool. The City sends important notifications through the app such as collection delays, holiday schedule changes and other issues related to curbside collection and waste disposal.

Where do I put my containers on collection day

Containers must be placed at the curb so they are visible and accessible for the collectors. Bins are to be on your property and not on or blocking roads, bike lanes, sidewalks or multi-use paths. There are some locations in the City where a special collection location has been designated if there are access issues for the curbside collection trucks. Contact the City if more information is required.

What time will collection take place at my residence?

Collection may take place any time between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm on your collection day. The Collection Routes are subject to change without warning – meaning they may arrive at your residence earlier or later than they have on previous collection days. To make sure your material is always collected, have your containers placed at the curb before 7:00 am on your collection day.

In accordance with Bylaw 4281, containers are NOT to be put out the night before collection and must be retrieved from the curb within 12 hours of collection and stored in a location or manner that ensures they

cannot be accessed by wildlife, especially bears. Failure to abide by these conditions may result in a fine of \$150 per occurrence.

If collection has not taken place at your house by 4:00 pm on your collection day, contact SCV Waste Solutions (see contact information on page 6).

What if I miss my collection day?

If you miss your collection day, you will have to wait until your next collection day to put out materials. If you cannot wait until your next collection day you can:

- Purchase garbage bag tags (if required) to put out extra garbage on the next collection week, or take your garbage to the Salmon Arm Landfill (tipping [fees](#) will apply).
- Take your recyclables to the Recycle BC Depot located at the Salmon Arm Landfill or Bills Bottle Depot.
- The transfer station for Food Waste at the Salmon Arm Landfill is not open to the public. If you miss your collection day and can't wait until the following week, you can take your food waste to the landfill as garbage.
 - Alternatively, consider freezing your food waste (if possible) until the next collection.

Why was my garbage/food waste/recycling left at the curb on my Collection Day?

There are multiple reasons why your Curbside materials may have not been collected. The following are some examples:

- If your container was not out in time, the collector may have already passed your house and will not return to collect your materials. To make sure your curbside containers are collected each week, have your containers at the curb prior to 7:00 AM on your collection day.
- During the winter it is difficult to access some locations during or after a snowfall. The safety of the drivers is top priority – if they feel they cannot access an area, they will return to the area and perform collection when conditions are safe. The City will send out a notification through the Recycle Coach app and may also post more significant delays on social media and the City website for these situations.
- Containers will not be accepted if they exceed the number, size or weight maximums for collection. In this case, a rejection sticker should be left on your bag or container by the collector indicating the reason materials were not collected.
- Food waste will not be accepted if it is not in a City of Salmon Arm branded green bin.
- Garbage will not be collected if it is not in bags, even if a garbage can is used.
- Recycling will not be collected if contained in bags rather than loose in bins.
- Containers will not be accepted if they contain contaminants (i.e. materials not accepted). In this case a rejection sticker should be left on your container. Refer to the Curbside Collection Bylaws section at the bottom of the Curbside Collection web page for Schedule A - List of Accepted and Schedule B - List of Prohibited Materials.
- Accidents happen! Containers occasionally are missed without a specific reason. If there is no sticker on your missed garbage and it was out in time, contact SCV Waste Solutions (see contact information on next page).

Why is my Food Waste/Garbage or Food Waste/Recyclables collected by the same truck at the same time?

The trucks used for collection have two compartments for materials (known as split body trucks). One compartment is designated for food waste and the other compartment for either garbage or recyclables, depending on what is being collected each week. Although it may look like all of your curbside materials are going into the same compartment, they are kept separate and unloaded in the appropriate locations.

How do I know what goes where?

The Curbside Collection Program Guide has a general what-goes-where sorting guide for Food Waste, Recycling, Garbage and Depot Recycling. A PDF version of the guide is available to view on the Curbside Collection web page, or pick-up a paper copy at City Hall front counter. Program guides are published annually and are typically available to pick-up in December. You can also use the what-goes-where search tool in the Recycle Coach app mentioned below.

What is Recycle Coach?

The Recycle Coach app is available to be used directly on the Curbside Collection web page under the **Waste & Recycling Information** section, or you can download the app to your mobile device for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play. Features of the app include:

- Address-specific collection schedules and custom reminders.
- What goes where search tool that allows you to look up material-specific collection or drop-off requirements.
- Report missed collections, service complaints, issues with bins or problems with the app itself.
- Emergency and non-emergency notifications for news, events, scheduling changes and other information from the City.
- Print schedules for collection days and events - available on Curbside Collection web page app only.
- Collection and event schedules can be exported to other calendars (Outlook, iCal or Google Calendar) – available on web page app only.
- Contact the City for assistance with the app.

Who do I contact for curbside collection questions or issues?

General inquiries related to curbside collection or waste disposal should be directed to the City at 250.803.4000 or email info@salmonarm.ca.

Missed collections or rejections of your curbside materials should be directed to the City's curbside collection contractor (SCV Waste Solutions) at 250.803.4074 / admin@scvwaste.ca.

Curbside collection web page: www.salmonarm.ca/curbside

Food Waste FAQs

I already use a back yard composter; do I have to use my food waste bin?

Back yard composting is a great way to discard food waste and we encourage residents to continue to compost in their own yards. However, there are many items that can go in your food waste bin that do not usually go in a residential composter including:

- Meat and bones
- Fat, grease and cooking oil (let solidify first and then scrape into compost bin)
- Dairy products
- Dry and cooked pasta
- Soiled paper and cardboard (ex. greasy pizza box or take-out food bag) – do not put soiled cardboard in your recycling bin
- Paper towel, napkins, facial tissue – do not put these in your recycling bin
- Waxed and parchment paper – only if marked certified compostable, otherwise put them in the garbage as they may contain chemicals or paraffin wax that isn't compostable
- Wood items such as toothpicks, popsicle sticks and chop sticks
- Any other food items that are leaving your backyard composter too wet or too dry
- Pet or human hair is also acceptable – please put large quantities in a closed compostable bag before putting it in your green bin

Use the food waste bin for all of the organic items that you cannot put in your backyard composter to further decrease the amount of garbage in your bi-weekly collection.

Can I set out food waste in my kitchen catcher instead of the food waste bin?

No, food waste must be set out for collection in the City of Salmon Arm branded green food waste bins. The kitchen catchers are not made for curbside collection and easily come apart or are missed due to their small size, especially if they get covered by snow. The green bins are designed for the collectors to easily lift and tip and also indicate that the property is paying for the curbside collection service.

Can I put yard waste in my food waste bin?

Yard waste is not permitted in the food waste bins.

As of 2026, the City will be providing monthly yard waste collection from April to November. Yard waste can also be taken to the Salmon Arm Landfill yard waste composting area year-round, free-of-charge.

The reason the City does not accept yard waste with food waste is that it is currently free to dispose of yard waste at the CSRD Salmon Arm Landfill (yard waste composting area), whereas there are tipping fees for the food waste. This helps to reduce the cost of the curbside collection program and the associated Curbside Collection service fee on your property tax bill.

Small amounts of yard waste are acceptable, such as weeds, flower dead heads, house plants and flower bouquets.

Where does the food waste go?

The food waste is sent to a transfer station at the Salmon Arm Landfill that is owned and operated by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD). From the transfer station, the food waste is taken to a private industrial composting facility (under contract with the CSRD) where it is composted in accordance with the requirements of the BC Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). The finished compost is typically sold for gardening and agricultural uses.

Do I have to use bags or liners for my food waste?

No, you do not have to use bags or liners for your food waste. If you do choose to use bags or liners for your food waste bin or kitchen catcher, you must use a material that is compostable, including: newspaper, paper towel, paper bags, and compostable plastic bags. Biodegradable and oxo-degradable bags are not permitted. Any liners that are not 100% paper must be certified compostable by a reputable certification organization, such as the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) Certified Compostable or the Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) Certified Compostable, whose certification logos are shown below.



There are other reputable certification organizations and labels besides BPI and BNQ. If you are uncertain about a certification, please contact the City for assistance.

What do I do if I have more food waste than the one bin per week allowed?

If you have extra food waste on your collection day that will not fit in your food waste bin, you may place extra bags of food waste at the curb for collection with Food Waste Bag Tags. These compostable tags can be purchased at City Hall or the SASCU Recreation Center, or online on the Curbside Collection web page (there is a link to the online order form in the Additional Information section halfway down the page). Note that Garbage Bag Tag stickers cannot be used with food waste as they are not compostable stickers.

It is a good idea to double bag your extra organic material to ensure your bag does not break upon collection. You can also put your extra Food Waste out in a container or garbage can with a lid, no larger than 120 litres and up to the 10 kg (22 lb) limit per container. Put the food waste sticker on the lid of the container (leave it over-hanging the lid for easy removal). Note that extra food waste bags, if used, must be paper or certified compostable bags. Paper yard waste bags are also acceptable for containing extra food waste, up to 10 kg (22 lb) per bag.

If you find you are consistently over the limit of weekly food waste collection, you may wish to opt-in for the additional food waste collection service. This is a great option for households with large families or with secondary suites. You will be charged a one-time fee of \$30 + tax for a City of Salmon Arm branded green bin and \$60 per year will be added to your property tax bill for the additional weekly collection.

There are links on the Curbside Collection web page in the **Additional Information** section (halfway down the page) with information for properties with suites and the additional food waste collection opt-in form.

What do I do if my food waste bin breaks?

If your food waste bin breaks, please contact the City for a replacement (see page 6 for contact info). The City will assess the cause and determine if the replacement will be provided free-of-charge or if the \$30 + tax fee will be charged. Note that the City has replacement food waste bin lids, if just a lid replacement is required.

Can I put pet waste or kitty litter in my food waste container?

No, pet waste is not accepted in the curbside Food Waste collection. Please bag all pet waste and cat litter and put it in your garbage.

What happens if I miss a food waste collection day?

If you do not get your food waste collected on your collection day you can:

- Keep your food waste until the following week (freeze it if possible). Food waste bag tags will be required if the food waste exceeds the weekly 10 kg (22 lb) weight limit the following week. See the question “What do I do if I have more food waste than the one bin per week allowed” on the previous page.
- See if a friend or neighbour has additional room for your food waste in their bin.
- Take your food waste to the Salmon Arm Landfill (tipping [fees](#) will apply). Note that at this time, your food waste will be deposited in the landfill with other garbage – it won’t be composted.

If I can’t determine if an item is compostable, should I put it in my food waste bin?

We can appreciate wanting to do your best to keep compostable materials out of the landfill, however contamination is difficult to separate and leads to clean compostable material being sent to the landfill.

Options to determine if something is acceptable in food waste include:

- Refer to the Curbside Collection Program Guide for more information about what-goes-where.
- Use the Recycle Coach web or mobile app (see “What is Recycle Coach?” on page 6).
- Refer to Schedule A - List of Accepted Materials (at the bottom of the Curbside Collection web page under Curbside Collection Bylaws) for a detailed list of what is accepted in food waste.
- Contact the City (see page 6 for contact info).

General rule-of-thumb: If in doubt – throw it out!

Are there other communities that have curbside organics collection?

Yes! There are many municipalities in BC that collect organics as a part of their curbside collection program. There are case studies that outline programs in a number of municipalities and can be found on this Government of British Columbia [website](#).

Recycling FAQs

What is the partnership between the City of Salmon Arm and RecycleBC?

The City entered into a partnership with RecycleBC (formerly Multi-Material BC) in 2014. RecycleBC provides financial incentives to the City for the curbside collection of Packaging and Paper Products (PPP). All monies received from RecycleBC for collection of PPP are used to reduce the cost of the Curbside Collection program and the associated Curbside Collection Service Fee on your property tax bill.

Where can I find information on what I can and can't recycle?

Refer to the what-goes-where guide in Curbside Collection Program Guide for what is accepted in curbside recycling and what is only accepted at a Recycle BC Depot. You can also use the what-goes-where search tool in the Recycle Coach app (see “What is Recycle Coach?” on page 6).

For curbside collection, recycling does not have to be sorted or separated in any way. All accepted PPP can be co-mingled in your bins.

The following three categories of PPP are not accepted in curbside recycling but can be taken to the Recycle BC Depots located at the entrance to the Salmon Arm Landfill or outside at Bill's Bottle Depot.

- **Glass bottles and jars** (note that metal and plastic lids can be removed and put in your curbside recycling). Glass refundable beverage containers can be taken inside Bill's for deposit refund.
- **Foam** – both hard (“Styrofoam”) and soft (or “squishy”) foam. Note that soft foam goes in the Flexible Plastics bin at the Depot, not with the hard foam.
- **Flexible Plastics** – which consist of stretchy and crinkly plastic bags and wrappers of all kinds. These are also referred to as “soft” plastics because they can easily be crumpled-up in your hand.

TIP: If you return your beverage containers to Bill's Bottle Depot for deposit refund, then collect your Recycle BC Depot materials in a separate bin at home and bring them with you when you go to Bill's. The Recycle BC Depot is outside and beverage containers go inside for refund. Bill's also accepts many other items for recycling such as light bulbs, light strings, light fixtures, small appliances, electronics, smoke and CO detectors.

Recycle BC Depots accept all types of PPP recycling, not just the above three materials. So, if you miss a recycling collection and can't wait two weeks for the next collection, you can take all of your recycling to the Depot. You have to manually sort your materials into each bin.

For more information about RecycleBC's collection program and locations, visit www.recyclebc.ca. They also have a [What Can I Recycle](#) search tool, similar to the Recycle Coach what-goes-where search tool.

If you are looking to recycle items that are not PPP, refer to Page 7 of the Program Guide which lists most of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs in BC that recycle many other products or visit www.bcrecycles.ca for a one-stop shop list of EPR programs in BC.

In addition to the City's Recycle Coach what-goes-where search tool, you can also use the Recycling Council of British Columbia's (RCBC) search tool at www.rcbc.ca if an item is not found in Recycle Coach.

Do I need to rinse my containers?

Please make sure food residue is removed and put in your food waste bin, and the containers or wrap (such as foil wrap) are rinsed. Aerosol cans containing food items like cooking spray or whipped cream can be sprayed out into food waste bin, but it's not possible to rinse the container in this case. Containers do not have to be spotless, but there should be minimal food residue remaining.

For health and beauty products, do your best to use all of the product and then rinse the container before putting it in your recycling. If the product can't be fully used, it could be poured down the drain if in liquid form (examples: liquid soap, shampoo, hair gel). This will get treated in the wastewater treatment plant, no different than if you used the product in the shower or sink.

Solid products should be put in the garbage. For example, the remnants of a solid deodorant can be removed by unwinding the stick fully from the container and put in the garbage. The container can go in the recycling.

Do not pour harsh cleaners or chemicals down the drain. Take these to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot at the Salmon Arm landfill on Wednesdays or Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. This includes house paint and empty paint cans (liquid or aerosol) and bear spray.

If a personal care product in aerosol form (e.g. hair spray) cannot be fully used, put the can in your garbage in a sealed zip lock bag. DO NOT put full or partially full aerosol containers in your recycling as these pose an extreme hazard to collection and sorting staff if they get punctured or released.

Bear spray is considered hazardous waste and must be taken to the HHW Depot for disposal. Make sure the canister trigger is secured with a zip tie or tape so that it can't accidentally be released. If not possible or convenient to take it the HHW Depot, zip tie or tape the trigger and put it in a sealed zip lock bag in your garbage.

What do I do with shredded paper?

Shredded paper can go in your curbside recycling. It must be contained in a closed cardboard box or paper bag, not loose in the bin. For example, small quantities can be put in an empty cereal box or brown paper bag. Large quantities could be put in a large cardboard box and set out beside your other recycling bins (make sure the box is closed). Write "Recycling - Shredded Paper" on the box in marker so it's identifiable for collection.

Consider taking large amounts of shredded paper to a Recycle BC Depot (Bill's Bottle Depot or the Salmon Arm Landfill) where you can put shredded paper directly in with other paper products.

Smaller amounts of shredded paper can also go in with your food waste. Shredded paper works nicely to absorb extra moisture from the food items you put in your green cart.

What if I have more recyclables than will fit in the bin I was provided at the start of the program?

Recycling collection is unlimited, so you can place as many bins of recyclables as necessary at the curb on your recycling collection day, provided that bins are left open (i.e. no lids), are not larger than 120 litres and contain a maximum of 10 kg (22 lbs) of material. Bins do not have to be blue – you could use a garbage can, storage tote or cardboard box, for example. Some people have used laundry hampers! As long as bins are left open so that the collector can identify that the contents are recyclables, and meet the size and weight criteria noted above, they should be collected.

If you put recycling out in a cardboard box and wish to keep the box, please write something like "Do not take the box" on the box so that it is emptied and left behind.

Note that large cardboard boxes **must be cut or folded down to a maximum size of 30"x 30"** to easily fit in the truck. These can be stacked beside or between bins, but do not tie the cardboard in bundles; leave them stacked loosely in a way that the wind won't blow them around. Also consider giving away moving boxes through online marketplaces rather than recycling them. It is more environmentally friendly to reuse than recycle!

What do I do if my recycling bin breaks?

If your recycling bin gets damaged, please contact City Hall to discuss getting a replacement. The City will assess the cause and determine if the replacement will be provided free-of-charge. The City does not sell recycling bins to residents.

Why is Styrofoam not accepted in Curbside Collection?

Styrofoam can break into pieces that mix with and cling to other materials. The pieces are difficult to separate, meaning less of the foam and other materials can be recycled. Foam packaging can be taken to the Recycle BC Depots mentioned above.

Why are Flexible Plastics not accepted in Curbside Collection?

Flexible plastics (also known as soft plastics), include all types of stretchy and crinkly bags and wrappers. These can get caught-up in the sorting facility equipment and behave much like paper while being sorted by automated equipment. This means they end-up contaminating the paper by mixing paper and plastic together. Flexible plastics can be taken to the Recycle BC Depots mentioned above.

For more information on what is included in the Flexible Plastics category, please check out the Recycle BC flexible plastics [web page](#). It has a fantastic photo guide of all the types of flexible plastics accepted and not accepted.

Notes:

- Items made from a mix of paper and plastic, such as shipping envelopes that are paper outside but plastic inside, are not accepted as flexible plastics. These must go in the garbage.
- Reusable shopping bags are now accepted as flexible plastics, if they are made from plastic-based synthetic fabrics. Natural fibre bags such as those made from cotton or hemp are not accepted as flexible plastics.

Why is glass not accepted in Curbside Collection?

Glass is a safety hazard for anyone handling recyclables whether that is collection staff or sorting facility staff. The City does not currently provide a separate curbside glass collection such as some other municipalities provide. This may be considered in the future.

Glass beverage bottles can be taken to Bill's Bottle Depot for a refund and other types of glass jars (ex. pickle or pasta jars) can be taken to Recycle BC Depots. Metal and plastic lids can be removed from jars and placed in your curbside recycling.

IMPORTANT: Glass windows, mirrors, drinking glasses, plates, etc. are not accepted by Recycle BC. These are not considered PPP (i.e. they are not paper or packaging). Refer to the Garbage FAQs for how to safely dispose of these types of broken glass or ceramic items.

Why can garbage cans have lids but recycling containers shouldn't?

Lids on recycling bins are not required. Since you can put out many containers for collection, putting lids on them slows down the collection as staff must remove the lid. Lids can end-up getting lost, damaged or sometimes may end-up falling into the truck. You can certainly put lids on your bins when they are not out for collection – just remember to remove the lids when you put the bins at the curb.

Concerned about litter? We kindly ask that you pick-up recyclable materials that have escaped bins on or near your property and put them in your bin for the next collection. Some steps can be taken to reduce the amount of litter from your recycling bins:

- Put out more bins in order to keep the level of material in each bin below the rim and help prevent recyclables from falling and blowing out. Use any type of bin or box, as mentioned above, if you have extra recycling on a recycling collection week.
- Organize your recyclables so that heavier items are on top of the lighter items.
- Keep your recycling bins stored inside your house or garage and only put them out on the morning of collection, by 7 AM.

Why can't plastic bags be used for recycling anymore?

Recycle BC has mandated the use of bins instead of bags for the following reasons:

- Reusable bins are preferable to single-use plastic bags that need to be recycled.
- Eliminates the ongoing cost for residents to purchase bags.
- Eliminates the need to open bags to remove recyclables at the sorting facilities.
- Eliminates bags getting tangled in sorting equipment.

If I can't determine if an item is recyclable, should I put it in my curbside recycling anyway?

We can appreciate that you want to do your best to keep recyclable materials out of the landfill, however, materials that are not accepted for recycling by RecycleBC should not go in your curbside recycling bins. Contamination can be difficult to separate leading to more clean recyclables being thrown in the garbage.

Use the RecycleCoach app (see "What is Recycle Coach on page 6) for what-goes-where information or contact the City for help.

General rule-of-thumb: If in doubt – throw it out!

Can I recycle Compostable Plastics?

More and more businesses are providing compostable plastic food containers, cups, cutlery, lids and straws. The problem with compostable plastics is that sometimes it is not apparent to consumers that they are compostable and they end-up in recycling bins. This can cause problems with recycling the traditional fossil-fuel based plastics because compostable plastics are not compatible with fossil-fuel plastics. They can also be problematic in food waste as they may not completely break down into compost or otherwise lack nutrients if they do break down. Additionally, compostable plastics also do not necessarily break down into compost in the natural environment if they are littered. Most need to be composted in an industrial facility.

Often compostable plastics are not clearly identified and many have the #7 plastic code ("Other plastics"), which can imply that it is recyclable. Note that these numeric codes found on plastic containers do not mean a plastic is recyclable – it is only intended to identify the type of plastic resin used. Not all types of plastic resins can be recycled, and that includes compostable plastics.

Here are some ways to determine if a plastic is compostable if it is not clearly stated on the container (for example BPI or BNQ Certified Compostable as described in the Food Waste FAQs):

Branding

These are some common brands of compostable plastics (you may have to look closely to see the brand stamped in the plastic): Greenware, Earthchoice, World Centric, EcoWare.

Other identifiers

- “Industrially Compostable”
- “Certified Compostable”
- “Ingeo” (a trademark of compostable plastic made by NatureWorks)
- “PLA” (polylactic acid) – this may appear under the #7 plastic code

Please check your plastic containers before putting them in the recycling bin. If it’s identified as a #7 plastic, look for some of the above-mentioned identifiers. If found, they can be put in with your food waste. Again, if you are uncertain, it is best to put them in the garbage to avoid contaminating your recycling or food waste.

Compostable plastic straws are not typically not clearly identified. It’s best to avoid using straws completely, but if necessary, use a reusable straw or paper straw. Single-use plastic straws should be put in the garbage.

Use the RecycleCoach app (see “What is Recycle Coach on page 6) for what-goes-where information or contact the City for help.

Why can I only recycle packaging and paper products?

RecycleBC only manages the collection and recycling of packaging and paper products (PPP). They charge fees to the producers or importers of products sold into the BC marketplace to pay for the collection and recycling of their packaging, but not for the product within the package itself. In many cases, there are other organizations (referred to as Extended Producer Responsibility or Stewardship organizations) that manage the recycling of the product itself. For example, when you purchase batteries, the plastic package the batteries come in can be put in your curbside recycling bin as this is managed by Recycle BC. The batteries, when no longer usable, can be recycled through drop-off recycling (use the RecycleCoach app to find battery drop off locations). Similarly for electronics and small appliances – the packaging these come in can go in curbside recycling (or Depot recycling for foam and flexible plastics), but old appliances and electronics must be taken to a facility that accepts these, such as Bill’s Bottle Depot in Salmon Arm.

There are products that are very similar to a package which cause uncertainty for many people. For example, reusable plastic or metal water bottles are made of the same material as a laundry detergent jug or aluminum food can, respectively. Since RecycleBC does not receive funding from the producers for these reusable water bottles, they should not be put in your curbside recycling bin. If the reusable water bottle came in a package, the packaging can be put in your recycling bin, but if the bottle is no longer usable, it should be put in the garbage. A metal bottle could be taken to the scrap metal bin at the Salmon Arm Landfill. The same applies to other products made from plastic or metal.

The good news is that RecycleBC has started to accept more “packaging-like” products. For example, plastic food storage containers (e.g. Glad or Ziploc containers) are a product, but are very similar to a package. These can be put in your curbside recycling when no longer usable. Paper or cardboard party décor, gift bags and boxes are also accepted in curbside recycling.

Note also that beverage containers are managed by Return-It, not RecycleBC. When you purchase a beverage in a pre-packaged container, you pay a deposit. This deposit will be refunded when you return the container to a Return-It depot (Bill’s Bottle Depot in Salmon Arm). If you are unable to return beverage containers, they can be put in your curbside recycling bin. The exception is glass beverage bottles – these would have to be thrown in the garbage. Note that there are charities and sports teams in Salmon Arm that will collect beverage containers as a means of funding and may be willing to pick them up at your home.

The BC Ministry of Environment and Parks (MoE) oversees recycling requirements through the Recycling Regulation, which is part of the Environmental Management Act. Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) organizations, such as Recycle BC and Return-It, are authorized by the MoE to manage specific materials

identified in the regulation. If you believe a product should be recycled but no program currently exists, the City encourages you to contact your local MLA to advocate for change.

As always, use the Recycle Coach app to find out what-goes-where or contact the City for assistance.

Garbage FAQs

What do I do if I have more than the 10 kg (22 lbs) of garbage allowed on garbage collection weeks?

Any garbage exceeding the bi-weekly weight limit of 10 kg (22 lbs) will require Garbage Bag Tag(s). These tags can be purchased at City Hall, the SASCU Recreation Centre, or online from the Curbside Collection web page (there is a link to the online order form in the Additional Information section halfway down the page). Each tag permits an additional 10 kg of garbage to be put out in a garbage bag. There is no limit to the number of additional garbage bags with tags that you can put out on garbage collection weeks.

If you have a home with high waste disposal needs due to things like pet waste, diapers or medical waste, contact SCV Waste Solutions (see page 6 for contact info) to subscribe to an additional garbage collection service which occurs on the same week that the City collects recycling. This allows you to have garbage collection weekly instead of bi-weekly, if that is needed.

If I miss a week, can I place double the amount of garbage out the following garbage collection week?

No. Only one (1) untagged bag or garbage can up to 10 kg (22 lbs) will be picked up each garbage collection week. Any additional bags will require Garbage Bag Tags.

If you cannot wait until your next garbage collection day, you can take extra garbage to the Salmon Arm Landfill. Tipping [fees](#) will apply.

Do I have to bag my garbage?

Yes, your garbage must be securely tied in a bag, even if a garbage can is used. Loose garbage will not be accepted as it can be hazardous to the collection staff or fall out of the bin into the environment while being emptied. You can use any type of plastic bag – it does not have to be a black garbage bag. For example, if you have leftover blue or clear recycling bags, these can also be used.

Do I have to use a garbage can?

No, it is not necessary to use a garbage can – you can just put garbage bags at the curb. However, a garbage can is recommended to help keep wildlife out. Garbage cans must be lightweight, durable, non-corrosive, fitted with handles and a lid, and **not be larger than 120 litres**.

The advantage of using a garbage can, in addition to wildlife protection, is that you can put multiple bags in the can up to the 10 kg (22 lb) weight limit. This avoids having to use a larger garbage bag to contain all the bags at the curb.

REMINDER: You may set out **one** garbage bag or **one** garbage can every second week, up to 10 kg (22 lb). Multiple bags or cans will not be collected even if the total weight is under the limit, as collection staff cannot accurately estimate the total weight of all bags and cans. Garbage exceeding the weight limit will require Garbage Bag Tags. There is no limit to the number of bags with tags that can be set out on a garbage collection week.

Please note that there are some types of garbage cans that the City's collection contractor has found to be **problematic to empty**. Here are the types of garbage cans to **avoid**:

- **Rectangular shaped:** Bags do not come out of these bins easily due to friction against the sides of the can. Circular garbage cans are preferred (see next page).



- **Hinged lids:** Cans with hinged lids are difficult to lift and empty because the lid flops around. This can be a hazard to collection staff and lids can break-off. A can with a removable lid works best.



(Note - the City's green bins have hinged lids, but these bins are much smaller than a typical garbage can and are designed so that the lid can be held against the bottom of the bin while being emptied.)

- **Garbage cans with wheels:** Wheels are acceptable as long as they're securely attached. This means that the wheel axle is securely attached to the bottom of the can and the wheels are securely attached to the axle. Poorly connected wheels can come off during collection and pose a hazard to collection staff while they lift and empty the can.

The image below shows a garbage can where the wheel axle that was only clipped in. During collection, the axle came loose and caused an injury to collection staff.



- **Preferred type of garbage can:** Circular garbage cans such as the style shown below are ideal.



Won't my garbage get too smelly if it's picked up every second week?

Making use of the weekly food waste collection will eliminate much of the smelly waste from your garbage. Keeping your garbage in sealed garbage bags within a garbage can will also help minimize odours.

You can also subscribe to the additional waste collection (mentioned in the response to the first Garbage FAQ above), or take your garbage to the landfill if it becomes too smelly between collections. Tipping [fees](#) will apply.

What do I do with broken glass or ceramics?

Broken glass, ceramics or other sharp items must be put into a cardboard box and taped shut. Write "Broken Glass" (or whatever the material is) on the box and set it beside your garbage can or garbage bag so it is clearly visible to the collector. It can also be put in a garbage can on top of the garbage bags.

Does the City provide a bulky item collection?

The City does not currently provide a bulky item collection service. It is preferable that residents arrange for the disposal of bulky items when required, rather than the City sending a collection vehicle around to all neighbourhoods on a periodic basis. This minimizes GHG emissions, wear-and-tear on our roads, and does not add an additional cost to all residents for the curbside collection service. Bulky items also have a variety of different disposal or recycling locations which complicates collection – everything doesn't go into the landfill. There may also be additional fees for disposal or recycling, such as the fee for mattresses that are taken to the Salmon Arm Landfill.

There may be local waste disposal or junk removal businesses in Salmon Arm that can provide this service for a fee if it is not possible for you to take the item to the appropriate location. Depending on the condition of the item, local thrift stores may be willing to pick it up, or you can try selling it or giving it away through an online marketplace, such as Facebook marketplace.

Use the Recycle Coach what-goes-where app to determine the appropriate disposal location for your item or contact the City for assistance.

You can also visit the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's (CSRD) [garbage and recycling web page](#) for more information as they accept many large items, such as furniture, appliances and exercise equipment at the Salmon Arm Landfill.

How do I reduce my garbage?

Utilize the what-goes-where search feature in the RecycleCoach app (see "What is Recycle Coach" on page 6). More information is available in the Curbside Collection Program guide as well.

There are MANY options for drop-off recycling of materials and products rather than putting everything in the landfill where it can be of no further use, fills-up limited landfill space, and potentially causes environmental harm. The City and CSRD appreciate all efforts to divert waste from being landfilled.

You can also take steps such as generally purchasing less (ask yourself "Do I really need this?"), purchasing items with minimal or no packaging, using reusable containers, getting items repaired rather than replacing them, etc. Consuming less, reusing and repairing is the key to reducing your waste footprint!

Contact the City if you wish further assistance with reducing your waste.

Yard Waste FAQs

Is Yard Waste included in the Curbside Collection Program?

As of 2026, yard waste will be collected monthly from April to November. See the collection schedule on page 8 of the Curbside Collection Program Guide for the specific collection dates and page 3 for more information about yard waste collection.

Yard Waste can also be taken to the Salmon Arm Landfill yard waste composting area at any time of year, free-of- charge.

What materials are considered Yard Waste?

The following items are accepted for Yard Waste collection: leaves, grass and hedge clippings, sod, plants, flowers, shrubs, branches, weeds (non-invasive only). Halloween pumpkins are also accepted, but make sure to remove candles and any other décor from the pumpkin.

Branches may be up to 1" (2.5 cm) in diameter and 3' (91 cm) in length. All branches must be placed unbundled inside of Kraft paper yard waste bags. DO NOT bundle and tie branches and leave them beside your bags. This makes it more difficult for our collection contractor to collect.

Invasive weeds must be put in the garbage. For a list of invasive weeds, visit the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society's [web page](#).

Refer to Schedule A - List of Accepted Materials for a detailed list of what is accepted in yard waste. The link for Schedule A is at the bottom of the Curbside Collection web page under Curbside Collection Bylaws.

How much Yard Waste can I put out for collection?

Yard waste will be accepted in unlimited quantities in paper yard waste bags, provided each bag does not weigh more than 44lbs (20 kg).

Yard waste will not be accepted loose, bundled, in bins or plastic bags, even if the bags are certified compostable plastic. **Only paper yard waste bags** will be accepted at this time.

Where to I find the paper yard waste bags?

Paper yard waste bags can be found at local grocery stores and home supply retailers, typically in the same aisle as garbage bags.

When do I place my yard waste bags out for collection?

Yard Waste collection does not occur on your regular weekly curbside collection day. The collection takes place over the course of the designated yard waste collection week. Depending on how much yard waste needs to be collected, it may take our contractor a few days or the full week.

All Collection Zones are to place yard waste bags at the curb by **7 AM on the Monday** of yard waste collection weeks. Leave the bags at the curb until they are collected. Late set-outs cannot be collected, as a separate truck and crew are scheduled only for yard waste weeks. If you believe your yard waste has been missed, contact the City's collection contractor prior to the end of the yard waste collection week (contact information on page 2 of the Program Guide).

Please keep your yard waste in dry location until yard waste collection week.