

Waste Reduction

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Compost

1. Why Should I Compost? Won't my food scraps biodegrade in the landfill?

Today's landfills are anaerobic environments, meaning without oxygen. It takes a very long time for organics to break down in these environments and when they do they produce methane gas. Methane gas is a strong greenhouse gas, and contributes to climate change. Composting organics save landfill space and produces a nutrient rich soil.

2. What materials can go in the backyard compost?

Backyard Compost

- Raw fruits and vegetables
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Egg shells
- Yard clippings
- Leaves
- Hair and fur

Depot and Bridgenorth Organics or Green Bin program

- All of above plus!
- Bones
- Meat
- Dairy
- Baked goods
- Cooked food
- Eggs
- Paper towels, napkins, tissues

Plastic should never go in the compost. This includes traditional plastic as well as "bio-degradable" or "compostable" plastics.

3. Will backyard composting significantly reduce my garbage?

Yes. Compostable kitchen and yard material can make up as much as 1/3 of residential garbage.

4. I have heard you can compost with worms? Is this true?

Yes. Vermi-composting is a process of composting using worms. This is great for residents who may not have the ability or space to have a backyard compost bin. Worm composting can be done year-round indoors. Please contact Peterborough Green-Up for more information on how to get started.

5. Where can I get more information about backyard compost?

Please contact Peterborough Green-Up for additional information on how to get your backyard composter working right.

Peterborough Green-Up

www.greenup.on.ca

(705) 745-3238

Electronics

6. I've heard my computer has heavy metals in it. Is that true?

Many electronic items contain hazardous materials that can cause environmental damage when thrown in the landfill. Circuit boards contain metals like cadmium, antimony and lead. Mercury is found in switches and lamps of photocopiers, scanners and fax machines. Large amounts of lead can also be found in monitors and TV glass.

When these items are taken to an electronic recycling drop-off these materials can be removed and handled properly while the rest of the valuable materials can be recycled into new products.

7. What products are accepted at the electronic recycling drop offs?

- Amplifiers
- Answering machines
- Cameras (Digital and non-digital)
- Cassette players/recorders
- CD players/recorders
- Cellular phones (smart, dumb)
- Computers (desk top, laptop, tablet...)
- Computer accessories (keyboards, mice, monitors, towers)
- Digital picture frames
- External hard drives
- Fax machines
- Floppy-disk drives
- HD/DVD/Blu-ray players or drives
- Home Theatre Equipment
- Modems (wired and wireless)
- Pagers
- PDAs
- Portable audio/video players
- Portable MP3/Digital audio players
- Printers
- Projectors (video, audio, image)
- Radios
- Scanners
- Speakers
- Telephones (Rotary, wired and cordless)
- Televisions
- Turn tables
- Typewriters (electric)
- Video cameras (analog and digital)
- Webcams

8. How can I make sure my old electronics don't get shipped overseas?

Electronics dropped at OES approved depots through the County of Peterborough are never sent overseas for recycling. Processors must meet strict standards to ensure materials are processed in an environmentally sound manner.

9. My electronics are in good working order. May I donate them?

Many thrift stores and charities still accept electronic equipment in good working order for resale or reuse. However since electronics become obsolete quickly call ahead before dropping equipment off to ensure they are able to handle it.

10. I have sensitive materials on my computer. How do I ensure they are destroyed?

To ensure identity theft protection it is important to remove all sensitive and personal information from your electronics before donating or recycling them. If you are unsure how to do this, check your owner's manual or contact your manufacturer and/or your local computer retailer to find out. While the approved network of service providers is obligated to ensure secure destruction of materials in the processing stage, we cannot accept liability for any data that remains on electronic equipment when you drop off. It is your obligation to protect your own personal information.

Recycling

11. Why isn't window glass accepted in my recycling program?

"Plate glass" or flat glass has a different chemical composition and manufacturing process than "container glass". Only container glass, such as food jars and bottles, may be recycled together in County blue box and depot recycling programs. Keep window glass, drinking glasses, light bulbs, mugs, dishes and mirrors out of the blue box. Please wrap these items with newspaper and place them in the garbage.

12. Can I put a broken jar into the blue box?

No. Broken glass is hazardous to the workers who collect and sort recycling. To dispose of broken glass, wrap it in several sheets of paper and place it in your garbage.

13. Why can't I recycle styrofoam?

Currently the market for recycling styrofoam is unstable. Some municipalities still collect this material in hopes the market will return. Due to the large geographic area of the County of Peterborough it does not make economic sense to truck a large volume of low weight material until the market rebounds.

When possible please avoid purchasing items packaged with styrofoam.

14. How should I set out my recycling?

Please set recycling out in 2 blue boxes; one for Containers and one for Fibres. Cardboard may be flattened and bundled (30" x 30" x 8") and left beside the fibres blue box. Film plastic bags should be placed in one bags and tucked into the fibres blue box.

15. What are containers?

Containers are:

- Coloured and clear glass bottles and jars
- Plastic food and drink containers, tubs and lids
- Pop cans, pie plates and tin foil
- Metal food and drink cans and tins
- Empty metal paint cans, dry, lids removed
- Empty aerosol cans
- Milk cartons and juice boxes

16. What are fibres?

Fibres are:

- News/writing paper, magazines, telephone books, envelopes, junk mail and flyers
- Corrugated cardboard
- File folders, construction paper, food boxes (liners removed) toilet paper tubes, brown paper bags
- Film plastics – grocery, milk and bread bags

17. How many blue boxes can I set out?

There is no limit on residential recycling boxes

18. Why does my recycling need to be out by 7:30am (7:00 in North Kawartha)?

Routing changes due to holidays, road closures, or staff changes may alter your “regular or usual” collection time. Have boxes out by 7:30am (7:00 in North Kawartha) to ensure collection.

19. Can I put my recycling in plastic bags?

We prefer residents use blue boxes. The equipment at our recycling facility is not designed to open bags and therefore requires further handling.

20. My blue box is broken, what do I do with it?

We can swap your broken blue box for a new one free of charge. Please visit our office at 310 Armour Road in Peterborough from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday. This service is also available at some Township offices. Please call them ahead to confirm.

21. Where can I get a new blue box?

New blue boxes are available at the County office at 310 Armour Road in Peterborough from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday for a cost of \$5. Blue boxes are also available at Township offices, but please call ahead to confirm availability.

22. Are coffee cups from coffee shops recyclable?

Yes. Please remove the lid (place in the garbage) and place the cup in the containers blue box for recycling.

23. My recycling was not collected, who do I call?

Please call the recycling contractor, BFI, directly at 705-742-4268.

24. Are paint cans recyclable?

Metal paint cans are recyclable if they are empty and dry. Please remove the lids and place them in the containers blue box.

Plastic paint cans are not recyclable.

If the cans are not empty please take them to your nearest Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste depot for recycling at no cost.

25. Why can't I recycle automotive oil containers?

Oil gets absorbed into the plastic container contaminating the plastic for recycling purposes.

These containers may be brought to a Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste depot for recycling at no cost.

Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW)

26. What items are accepted at a MSHW depot?

- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Automotive fluids
 - Gasoline
 - Oil (new and used)
 - Brake fluid
 - Power steering fluid
 - Washer fluid
- Batteries
 - Single Use
 - Rechargeable
 - Automotive
- Cleaners
 - Oven
 - Surface
 - Scouring Powders
 - Drain
- Cosmetics and Make-up
- Fertilizers
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs and Tubes
- Glues
- Herbicides and Pesticides
- Medications
 - Prescription
 - Over the Counter
 - Vitamins
- Mercury Containing Devices
 - Thermostats
 - Thermometers
- Paint
- Paint Thinners
- Pet Care Products
 - Flea medication
- Pool Chemicals
- Propane Cylinders (50kg/100lb maximum)
- Sealants
- Sharps (syringes/lancets)
- Soap and Toiletries
- Stain

27. What do I do with old CFL bulbs?

CFL bulbs contain mercury and should not go in the garbage or recycling. Please bring them to your nearest Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste depot for recycling at no cost.

Some hardware stores also accept CFLs for recycling, call ahead to see if yours does.

28. Where can I safely dispose of mercury thermostats?

Please bring them to your nearest Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste depot for recycling at no cost.

29. Where can I bring old oil, oil filters or gas?

Please bring them to your nearest Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste depot for recycling at no cost.