

Clear Bag for Garbage – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a clear bag for garbage program?

A. A clear bag for garbage program is a diversion program developed by the municipality to ensure all recyclable and compostable materials are being diverted from landfill. Residents and businesses will be required, by January 1, 2014, to place regular non-recyclable and non-compostable waste into a clear bag for collection; no more than one (1) black/green privacy bag will be accepted at curbside.

Q. What do I do with all the black/green bags I have now?

A. Use them up during the three month implementation period. Although the clear bag program began October 1, 2013 it will not be enforced until January 1, 2014, this will allow residents and businesses a chance to use up dark bags before starting with clear bags.

Q. Where do I get clear bags?

A. Local stores will be stocking shelves with clear bags in both large and kitchen catcher size.

Q. I currently use white grocery or kitchen catcher type bags for garbage, what do I do after October 1, 2013?

A. You will be able to still use kitchen catcher type bags that are clear in color. All grocery bags can still be used for newspaper, magazines etc., however all other waste must be in a clear bag or blue bag.

Q. What do I do with cat litter? Dog waste? Diapers?

A. All waste must go into a clear bag. Local stores will be selling small clear bags, however diapers may still be tightly wrapped, individually, into a grocery bag as long as it is clear to collection staff that the contents of the grocery bag is a diaper and the resident is clearly participating in all mandatory waste diversion programs.

Q. Why clear bags for garbage?

A. There are several reasons why having garbage placed in a clear bag is beneficial to the Municipality. The Province banned recyclable and compostable materials from landfill since 1998. Municipal collectors can be fined for accepting these banned materials in the garbage stream and these fines are large depending on the level of unacceptable materials. Using clear bags for collection of garbage makes it more efficient for collection staff to inspect waste, without causing litter, for compliance and ensures that all residents are participating in our mandatory waste diversion programs.

Q. Why now?

A. We are ready for clear bags. The majority of our residents and businesses are recycling and composting with great success, however we must now increase our efforts in order to reach and maintain a provincial goal of 300kg per person, per year. The Municipality currently holds a rate of 318kg per person, per year.

Q. What happens if I don't participate in the waste diversion programs, including clear bags for garbage?

A. All waste not in compliance with the solid waste management by-law and our mandatory waste diversion programs will be rejected at curbside.

Q. What happens if someone dumps their waste in the woods or somewhere else because it was rejected or because they don't want to follow the rules?

A. This is called illegal dumping and is a serious offence with penalties. The Municipal by-law will be enforced in any case of illegal dumping and the violator will be prosecuted.

Q. What happens if I decide to burn my garbage? OR What am I allowed to burn?

A. The burning of any waste, including recyclables and construction waste is prohibited by provincial legislation and our local Municipal by-law. The Municipal by-law will be enforced in any case of illegal burning of waste and the violator will be prosecuted.