

A WASTE WISE
GUIDE FOR

MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS



It's time to get Waste Wise!

A regional bylaw has been adopted whereby all residential, commercial, industrial and institutional properties need to separate recyclables and compostables out of their garbage.

If you live in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Harrison, Hope, Kent, Mission, or in Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Areas, this bylaw applies to you.

Being **Waste Wise** reduces the amount of garbage going to our landfills by simply steering it into the correct collection bin. All we have to do is **sort it out!**



Let's take out the recyclables and compost and help our environment. Everyone needs to be Waste Wise.

For the purpose of this guide the term **multi-family buildings** includes apartments, condos, townhouse complexes and co-ops, etc.

For more information visit BeWasteWise.com



COMPOSTING FOOD WASTE

Food isn't garbage. It belongs in the compost bin.

- ➔ About 30% of all garbage sent to landfills is compostable, and most of that is food.
- ➔ Food disposed in the landfill generates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. This food waste can instead be transformed into compost, and used to grow food locally.

WHAT'S IN & WHAT'S OUT

A food waste collection program can allow residents to put all food, such as meat, cheese, dairy, bones, fruit, vegetables and coffee grounds into the compost bin. Food-soiled paper such as pizza boxes, paper towels and napkins can also be composted.

Posters, bin labels and brochures that you can easily print off to aid you in sorting can be found at BeWasteWise.com. An example of a composting poster is on the following page.

PLASTIC BAGS WITH THE COMPOST

Most compost processors in the region **do not** accept plastic bags, including those marked biodegradable or compostable. This is because some compostable plastic bags do not break down sufficiently, and can contaminate finished compost.

Some haulers allow the use of certain plastic liners for the compost bins. When negotiating an agreement with your hauler, establish what type of liners can be used and clarify the costs associated. However paper bags are accepted.



COMPOST

FOOD PRODUCTS

Pasta & Grains, Fruits & Vegetables, Meats, Poultry & Bones, Dairy Products, Sauces



FOOD-SOILED PAPER & WOODEN UTENSILS

Paper Plates & Cups, Coffee Grounds, Filters & Tea Bags, Toothpicks, Wooden Stir Sticks, Skewers and Chop Sticks, Wooden Cutlery, Soiled Pizza Boxes & Take-out Containers, Paper Towels



COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS



Confirm with your hauler if they accept plastic bags and other products, if labelled biodegradable and compostable.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE

Diapers, Pet Waste, Plastic Packaging & Utensils, Straws, Foam Packaging, Glass, Metal



For further information go to **BeWasteWise.com** and check out the videos.

BEWASTEWISE.COM





RECYCLING PRODUCTS & PACKAGING

Simply put, recycling transforms old materials into new, avoiding the need to extract raw materials.

WHAT'S IN & WHAT'S OUT

Here is a list of some items that can be recycled:

- ➡ All paper products and packaging (cardboard, boxboard, paper, magazines, disposable coffee cups)
- ➡ Plastics (beverage cups, clam shell packaging, take out containers, bottles)
- ➡ Metals (beverage cans, clean aluminum foil and foil trays)
- ➡ Glass (beverage containers and jars)

An example of a recycling sorting poster is on the next page. Please ensure any food containers are rinsed before recycling.

RECYCLING/BOTTLE DEPOT ITEMS

Hazardous waste that ends up in the garbage or mixed recycling can be damaging for the environment and dangerous for collection crews and processors. Some hazardous waste can be dropped off at recycling/bottle depots for free (see below).

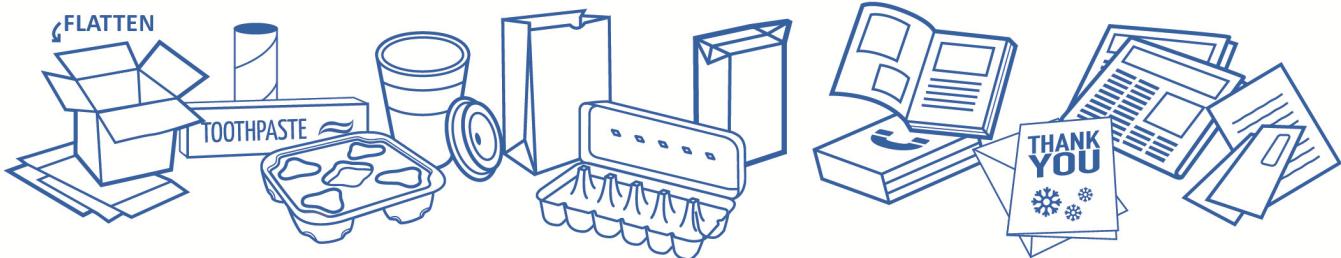


For information on the nearest recycling drop off location and items accepted, call the RCBC Recycling Hotline (toll free) at 1-800-667-4321 or visit www.rcbc.ca.ca.

RECYCLING

PAPER PRODUCTS & PAPER PACKAGING

Boxboard, Cardboard, Paper Cups, Paper Egg Cartons, Paper Food Bags, Tetra Pak® Containers, Magazines, Phone Books, Greeting Cards, Newspaper, Flyers, Envelopes, Loose Leaf Paper



METAL CONTAINERS

Aerosol Spray Cans, Aluminum & Tin Cans, Aluminum Foils & Trays



PLASTIC CONTAINERS

Milk jugs, Plastic Beverage Containers, Clamshell Packaging, Food Tubs, Jars, Lids



DEPOT ITEMS?



Confirm with your hauler if glass, plastic bags and overwrap, crinkly non-stretchy cellophane wrappers and foam packaging can be recycled along with other materials or needs to be taken to a depot.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE

Plastic Products Labelled Biodegradable or Compostable, Plastic Squeeze Tubes, Wax Coated Boxes, Spray Paint Cans, Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal



For further information go to **BeWasteWise.com** and check out the videos.

BEWASTEWISE.COM





SETTING UP A WASTE SORTING PROGRAM AT YOUR MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING

STEP 1—IDENTIFY RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL

Begin by identifying who will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring your building's waste-sorting program.

Planner—Manages waste-sorting program, selects hauler, and coordinates compost and recycling bin delivery and pick-up.

Monitor—Checks compost and recycling bins for contamination and makes sure bin area is clean and tidy and bins are secure.

Resident Liaison—Lets residents know about waste-sorting program and answers their questions.

STEP 2—SPEAK TO YOUR HAULER & SET-UP SERVICE

Before you implement a waste-sorting program, ask your hauler how many bins you will need for recyclables and compostables. The bins should be easily accessible with no obstructions that would make disposing of recyclables and compostables difficult or inconvenient.

Costs for waste removal vary; contact your waste hauler for a quote. As residents recycle and compost more, some buildings may switch to smaller garbage bins or less frequent collection.

Things to consider:

- ➔ Record what you see in the garbage. Does it include recyclables and compostables?
- ➔ Ask your waste hauler if they offer a service to assess your waste and note areas for improvements.
- ➔ Does your hauler provide a bin cleaning service?

STEP 3—NOTIFY RESIDENTS ABOUT WASTE-SORTING

Here are some tips to help with getting residents on board with composting and recycling.

- ➔ Involve residents early.
- ➔ Provide at least four to six weeks' notice before the program begins.
- ➔ Promote the program at resident or strata meetings and through informational signs in common areas. Make waste-sorting a standing agenda



item at meetings with residents or the strata, or at Annual General Meetings.

Ask your waste hauler to participate in these meetings.

- ➔ If you have a Facebook page or website, share news about composting and recycling.
- ➔ Direct residents to BeWasteWise.com for information.
- ➔ Share contact information for whom in the building to call with questions.

STEP 4—IMPLEMENT WASTE-SORTING

Once you have planned your program and notified residents, it's time to launch your program. During the first few weeks of the program launch, you will want to:

- ➔ Communicate to residents that the compost and recycling bins have arrived and to start using them.
- ➔ Ensure the area around the compost and recycling bins are clean and tidy to prevent pests and rodents.
- ➔ Report any problems or issues with the program to residents.

STEP 5—MONITOR WASTE-SORTING AND RE-EDUCATE

Regular monitoring will let you know if you have too many, or too few, recycling and compost bins.

Perform a visual check throughout the week and estimate the percentage of non-compostable or non-recyclables in your compost bins and recycling bins respectively. You could also:

- ➔ Replace posters or labels that are damaged or missing.
- ➔ Talk to your waste hauler and make changes to your collection schedule, as needed.

Re-educate residents along the way. Address problems quickly and share successes often.



COMMON WASTE RELATED CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS

The table below summarizes some of the common challenges and solutions faced in multi-family buildings.

COMMON CHALLENGES	COMMON SOLUTIONS
➔ Inconvenience—sorting bins that are located in different areas of a building are inconvenient for residents and more likely to result in frustration or improper sorting.	➔ Designate a centralized location within the building complex so that there is a one-stop area for all waste materials.
➔ Infrastructure—some buildings have designated waste storage areas that have space constraints and cannot easily accommodate additional sorting bins.	➔ Work with property management/strata council, janitorial staff and your hauler to identify and improve waste storage areas. Perhaps the use of smaller bins and more frequent pick-up could address the issue of the lack of storage space.
➔ New Residents—apartments and condos often have high turnover and new residents may be unfamiliar with the sorting requirements in this region.	➔ To encourage waste-sorting, consider providing kitchen catchers and recycling bins to each unit with information packages. Suggestions for items to include in the information packages can be found on BeWasteWise.com. ➔ Ensure that the containers provided are included in the security deposit so that the residents do not take them with them when they move out. ➔ Remind residents about composting and recycling requirements no later than two weeks after move-in and no less than two weeks prior to move-out.

Adopted from the *Livegreen Resident Engagement on Sustainability Guide* published by BC Housing.