



A WASTE WISE
GUIDE FOR

SCHOOLS



It's time to get Waste Wise!

In April 2020, the Fraser Valley Regional District adopted a new waste sorting bylaw, whereby all residential, commercial, industrial and institutional properties need to separate recyclables and compostables out of their garbage. This applies to people that live, work and go to school in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Harrison, Hope, Kent, Mission, or in Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Areas.

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 more information visit bewastewise.com



SETTING UP A WASTE SORTING PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL

STEP 1—IDENTIFY RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL

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

Planner— this maybe a school district staff member or a facilities manager. This individual manages the waste-sorting program, selects the hauler, and coordinates compost and recycling bin delivery and pick-up.

Staff and Student Liaison—Lets staff and students know about the waste-sorting program and answers their questions. Consider creating a "Green Team" to help educate about the new waste sorting program.

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 recyclables and compostables difficult or inconvenient.

Costs for waste removal vary; contact your waste hauler for a quote. As staff and students recycle and compost more, some schools 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 STAFF AND STUDENTS ABOUT WASTE SORTING

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

- ➔ Involve staff and students early.
- ➔ Provide at least four to six weeks notice before the program begins.
- ➔ Promote the program at staff meetings and through informational signs in common areas.
- ➔ If you have a Facebook page or website, share news about composting and recycling.
- ➔ Direct staff and students to **bewastewise.com** for information.
- ➔ Share contact information for whom at the school to call with questions.

STEP 4—IMPLEMENT WASTE SORTING

Once you have planned your program and notified staff and students, it is time to launch your program. During the first few weeks of the program launch, you will want to:

- ➔ Communicate to staff and students 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.
- ➔ If you have a Green Team, consider having a team member stand beside the bins to help students sort their waste properly.
- ➔ Report any problems or issues with the program to staff and students.

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 staff and students along the way. Address problems quickly and share successes often.



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

Yes:

- Vegetable and fruit scraps (apple cores/banana peels)
- Coffee grounds and tea leaves
- Plant trimmings
- Paper towels and napkins
- Cooked food including rice or pastas
- Fish, meat and bones
- Dairy products
- Food-soiled paper
- Wooden Cutlery

NO:

- Pet waste
- Diapers
- Plastic utensils
- Plastic straws
- Ziploc baggies



Compostables collection service

A compostables collection program can allow staff and students 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. 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. Paper bags are always accepted.



COMPOST

FOOD PRODUCTS

Baked Goods, Fruits & Vegetables, Meats, Poultry & Bones, Dairy Products, Sauces



FOOD-SOILED PAPER & WOODEN UTENSILS

Paper Plates & Cups, Products Labelled Biodegradable or Compostable, 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, even those 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](https://www.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.

SPECIAL WASTE TO A SPECIAL PLACE

Hazardous waste that ends up in the garbage or mixed recycling can be extremely damaging for the environment. Small quantities of some hazardous waste can be dropped off at the nearest bottle depot for free recycling.

Here are some items accepted for recycling at bottle depots.

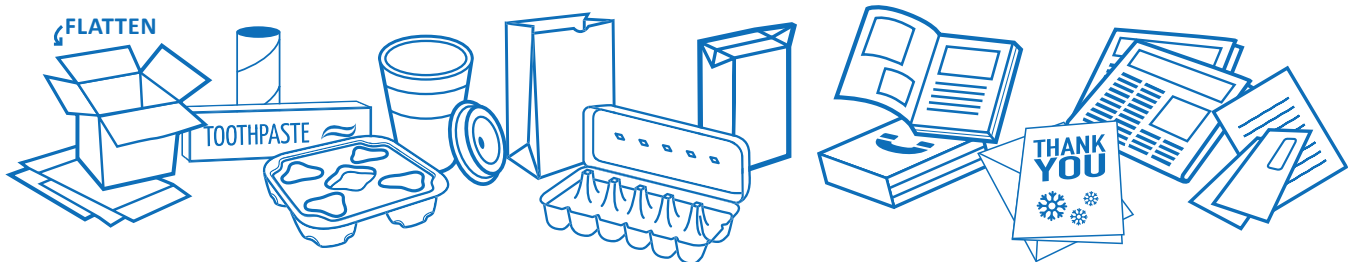


Need more information on disposal options? Call the RCBC Recycling Hotline (toll free) at 1-800-667-4321.

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, Pizza Boxes



METAL CONTAINERS

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



PLASTIC CONTAINERS

Plastic Beverage Containers, Clamshell Packaging, Food Tubs, Lids



DEPOT ITEMS

Drop off milk jugs, glass bottles and jars, plastic bags and overwrap, crinkly non-stretchy cellophane wrappers, and foam packaging at your nearest recycling depot.



To learn more call the Recycling Hotline at **1-800-667-4321**.

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