November 2020

Winter is coming

Are you ready or in denial?
While there is beauty in every season, winter can create additional challenges when setting out and collecting waste. This issue is all about helping you get prepared for the cold and snowy weather, from a waste-related standpoint anyway.
Keep warm and stay safe!

COVID-19 update

Top 3 recent collection issues (and solutions):

1. **Unacceptable items in the blue box.** This includes masks, cigarette butts, spoons, Styrofoam, plastic wrap, and rags. All of these items should be put in the garbage. If you are dealing with different types of items now, please check Waste Whiz first.
2. **Late set-out.** Your personal schedule may have changed, but waste collection continues to start at 7 a.m.
3. **Loose garbage.** Please ensure all garbage (including items in garbage cans) is in bags, and tie all bags securely closed. This helps protect collection staff.

Need more information about the pandemic? Check
- the [Region’s website](#)
- the [Province’s website](#)
- the [Federal government’s website](#)

Reminder! If you set out **garbage over the limit** please adhere a **garbage tag** to each garbage bag.

Cleaning up and clearing out:
A waste guide for inside and outside your home
Yard waste wrap-up

Our curbside Yard Waste program is ending soon.

- In Cambridge and Waterloo: The last week yard waste will be collected is from November 23 to 27.
- In Kitchener and the Townships: The last week yard waste will be collected is from November 30 to December 4.

Leaves, garden waste, branches and other yard waste is accepted. No stones, litter, and dirt, please.

Set yard waste out in in paper yard waste bags, reusable containers and bundles. The maximum weight for each container or bundle is 23 kilograms (50 pounds).

After collection ends, there are these options to consider.

Household Hazardous Waste

Take back the following types of hazardous waste to local businesses:

- **Batteries**
- **BBQ tanks**
- **Medicine and syringes**
- **Paint**

Drop off cleaning products, fluorescent light bulbs, and other items at the Region’s Household Hazardous Waste depots.

Remember to put empty, dry paint cans (remove lids), empty automotive fluid containers (such as antifreeze), and empty aerosol cans in your Containers Only blue box.

Electronics

Electronics, including tablets, cell phones, monitors, printers, keyboards, etc. Check out the full list.

1. **Wipe your data**
2. **Find a local business** that takes back electronics for recycling for free. Or drop them off at the Region’s waste management sites (fees will apply).
1. Check **Waste Whiz** to see if your item is eligible for collection and how to prepare it. (Tip: If you have a piece of furniture like a bookcase or dresser, secure the shelves and drawers, and keep it intact; do not disassemble.)

2. Set out by 7 a.m. on your garbage day. **Limit of 3 items** per household.

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**Alcohol containers**

Return all alcohol cans, bottles and packaging to **The Beer Store** for recycling.

Learn about the environmental **benefits and bust up some myths about this program.**

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**Blue Box Bloopers**

When you are cleaning up and clearing out, please don't dump everything into blue boxes, like pictured below. There are unacceptable items in these blue boxes including broken glass, ceiling tiles and other renovation waste, an electric fan, plus improperly prepared recyclables.

"Wishful" recycling doesn't work. It could injure the collector, and your blue box would be stickered and left behind.

Be a recycling pro! Learn about
- **What's acceptable**
- **How to do the 2 box sort**
- **What to do with broken glass**
- **What to do with cardboard cans**
- **How to avoid Oops stickers**
Remember to share this news!

Help put the pieces together for your circle of friends! Please forward this electronic newsletter to them using the link at the end, or even better, send them the link to the Region's subscription page. There they can quickly sign up for Waste Management eNews and any other topic that they are keen on.