It's still a time to be grateful

Living in a COVID-19 world for the last seven months has slowed a lot of things, given us time to pause and reflect on our lives and priorities, and develop new habits to keep our family and community safe. We are fortunate to have so many resources available, including waste collection, to help us.

While some things are getting back to normal (such as garbage limits, see COVID-19 update below), celebrations will continue to be a little different since physical distancing and group limits are still in effect.

Regardless waste will be created. We're here to help with timely tips, reminders and other information. Thank you for your ongoing efforts. Stay safe!

COVID-19 update

Garbage limits return to normal
Starting October 5, garbage limits will return to normal, that is 4 bags/cans every second week for a single family household.

Would you like to pick up this garbage?

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Go to the Region's COVID-19 page for the latest information and statistics.
- All green bin organics have to be bagged to protect collection.
Compost is now available at both of our sites, as supplies last. Wood mulch is available at our Waterloo site only. See this press release for details.

Unbagged garbage including masks puts frontline workers at risk and will not be collected. Please put all garbage in bags. Tie bags closed.

Spotlight on Waste Reduction Week October 19 to 25

Celebrate Waste Reduction Week in Canada!

- Learn everyday about a new topic by following their themed days.
- Visit the Plastics Action Centre.
- Take the food waste pledge (including a quiz).

And since our fall public tours are cancelled, take a virtual tour of our site instead.
1. Correctly place items to the curb for collection

- Safe
- Visible
- Accessible
- Protect your containers

All items have to be along the street curb for collection.

2. Thanksgiving collection reminders

- There is no change to collection for this holiday. If you have waste collection on Mondays, please set out your collectable items by 7 a.m.
- Our waste drop-off sites are closed on Monday, October 12 to residents.

Next Double Garbage Days:

- The week of October 12 to 16 2020 for residents in Kitchener and the Townships
- The week of October 19 to 23, 2020 for residents in Cambridge and Waterloo.

3. Prevent and recycle food waste

Use our food waste reduction tips to plan meals, and store and freeze food properly.

Make sure you green bin all you can! From half-eaten pretzels to turnip peelings to turkey bones, all food scraps are acceptable. As well, paper plates, wooden toothpicks and cold, wood ashes are accepted. Check out the list of acceptable items. Use Waste Whiz to search a particular item.

4. Ensure your yard waste containers are strong enough

Yard waste can be set out in paper yard waste bags or reusable containers.

- Yard waste put in plastic bags will not be collected.
- Do not overfill containers; ensure yard waste is not sticking overtop the container edge.

5 things to be mindful of this month

Place collectable items at the end of your driveway, along the street curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.

- If you receive loose leaf collection and have raked leaves to the curb, do not put your collectable items along the same curb as this poses a potential barrier and safety issue for waste collection crews.
- Do not place items on the road. Items placed on the road pose issues for street cleaners, cyclists and other traffic. Also, any debris could block storm drains (see Objective 6.2 of our Community Climate Adaptation Plan).
- Do not place items behind landscaping, light/hydro poles, or parked cars. Collection crews may not be able to see them.
While the maximum weight allowed for pickup is 23 kilograms (50 pounds), some yard waste containers may not be able to support that weight, and may not be collected by if there is a risk of breakage.

- Shake off dirt from plants before putting them in your yard waste container.
- Sod, soil and rocks are not accepted.
- If you use paper yard waste bags, please store them in a dry area until collection, and avoid rips/tears.
- If you use reusable containers, please ensure that they have two handles, are no larger than 121 litres (32 gallons), and are not cracked or broken.

5. Recycle jack

Halloween will likely be much different this year. (But at least we're all used to wearing masks!)

If you do celebrate Halloween, consider these waste reduction tips, and please recycle your jack o'lantern:

- Remove decorations, candles.
- Place on top of or beside the green bin - or put with yard waste - or cut it up and put it in your backyard composter.

Bring it with you and pick up a replacement

**Cambridge Waste Management site**, 201 Savage Drive, Cambridge, Ontario N1T 1S6, Monday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Waterloo Waste Management site**, 925 Erb Street West, Gate 2 (Hazardous Waste building), Waterloo Ontario N2J 3Z4, Monday to Saturday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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