



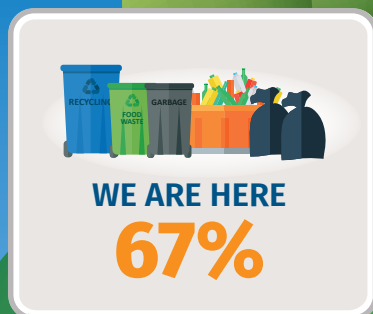
Mandatory Waste Source Separation Guide

*It's time to **ReThink** how we deal with our waste!*

Why?

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has a goal to reach **90% waste diversion** from the landfill. To help us reach this goal, the RDN adopted a bylaw that requires all residential (condos and apartments), commercial (businesses) and institutional (schools and government buildings) properties to have garbage, recycling and food waste bins.

This means, that if you live, work or have a business in **Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach** or an RDN **Electoral Area**, this bylaw applies to you.





Food Waste

Did you know that almost **half of the waste** sent to the landfill from condos and apartments can be **composted** – most of which is **food waste**. When food waste ends up in the landfill, it creates **methane**. Some of this methane is captured, but some is released into the environment and **makes climate change worse**. Instead, you can **send your food waste for composting** and turn it into soil to **help grow more food**.



What's included

Commercial composting is different from backyard composting. With commercial composting, a food waste collection system includes **all food** – **fruits, vegetables, dairy, bread, pasta**, even **meat and bones!** **Napkins, paper towels** and other **paper products** that have been soiled with food can also be included. If you're worried about the smell or the mess, just wrap your food scraps in napkins, paper towels, newspaper or other paper products.



Signage

Your waste hauler **will provide signage** for their specific collection system. This is an example of what that may look like.

FOOD WASTE

 FRUITS & VEGETABLES	 MEAT, POULTRY, FISH, SHELLFISH & BONES	 BREAD, DOUGH, PASTA & GRAINS
 EGGS & DAIRY PRODUCTS	 FOOD SCRAPS	 FOOD SOILED PAPER & CARDBOARD
 TEA BAGS, COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS	 FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS	 PAPER TOWELS, NAPKINS & PAPER PLATES

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROHIBITED:

- LAWN CLIPPINGS or YARD TRIMMINGS
- Plastics including biodegradable bags
- Soil, sod or rocks
- Diapers and other personal hygiene items

1 If you choose to line your cart, use newspaper or purchase compostable bags (must have certified compostable logo).

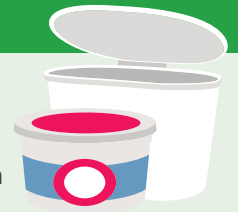
2 Remove stickers and other metal or synthetic materials before composting.

Place your carts at the curb by 8 am on your collection day. Make sure your carts:

- are open towards the street;
- are at least 1m (3ft) apart, 1m (3ft) away from obstacles such as cars and 3m (10ft) clearance above; and
- lids are closed.

Waste Stations

Kitchen catcher



The easiest method for collecting kitchen scraps and other food waste is with a countertop container, often called a **kitchen catcher**. It's a handy tool to keep food waste stored, accessible, sealed and easily transferred to a central collection point. Most large retailers and grocery stores carry different styles and some waste haulers may be able to provide them to residents as part of their collection contract. Another option would be to **upcycle an old ice cream pail or coffee tin**.

What about "compostable plastics"?

Most commercial composters **do not accept compostable, biodegradable or oxo-degradable products** because these items do not break down properly and can contaminate the finished compost product. If you are uncertain if you can put compostable products in your food waste bin, **ask your waste hauler**. You may be able to negotiate with your hauler about using certain compostable plastic bags to line



your bins or you can use newspapers or paper bags.

Indoor and outdoor waste sorting stations

There are a number of companies that offer waste sorting stations, depending on your needs, including **Grand and Toy, Canadian Tire, Busch Systems, Clean River, Clear Stream Recycling System, and Gladson**.



Recycling

Recycling takes items that would have gone to the landfill and instead **turns them into something new**. By recycling we **reduce the need for extracting raw materials**.



What's included

Recycling has changed a lot through the years. With better processing available, there are a lot **more things that can be recycled**. It's important to remember that just because something is recyclable, doesn't mean it can go into your recycling bin. Some items have to be taken to a depot. Depending on who your waste hauler is, **different items can be put in your recycling bin**.

Signage

To help you understand what can and can't be recycled, **talk to your hauler** about getting signs for your collection area and for residents' homes. This is an example of what that may look like.

Take it to the depot

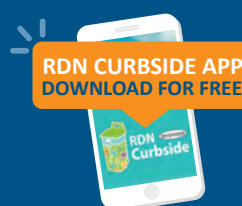
British Columbia has one of the most extensive depot recycling programs in Canada. **All of these items can be taken to a depot:**

	Glass jars and bottles		Lightbulbs
	Foam packaging		Motor oil and gasoline
	Plastic bags/film/overwrap		Paint
	Small appliances		Tires
	Electronics		Outdoor power equipment
	Power tools		Deposit beverage containers
	Batteries		Major appliances

When these depot items end up in the garbage or mixed into your recycling, they **can damage the environment, hurt collection staff** and **cause machine breakdowns** at processing facilities.

And remember:

- **Keep items loose** – do NOT stack items inside one another.
- **Rinse, squish and flatten** before placing in bin. **Remove** any tape, string, ribbon or other contaminants.



If you're uncertain about what to do with an item, **download the RDN CURBSIDE app** to find out "What Goes Where", even if you aren't a curbside customer, or visit rdn.bc.ca/what-goes-where

Setting your building up for success



Step 1 – Find the people that will help make the program successful

- **Talk to the strata council**, property manager or owner about the RDN's goal to reach 90 per cent waste diversion and the new bylaw that requires all residential (condos and apartments), commercial (businesses) and institutional (schools and government buildings) properties to have garbage, recycling and food waste bins.
- **Find people** to plan collection, monitor the bins for contamination and work with the residents to make sure they are sorting properly and have their questions answered.



Step 2 – Talk to your hauler and set up the collection service

- **Work with the hauler** to figure out how to best provide the collection service for your building.
 - ◆ Larger bins vs. many small ones.
 - ◆ Does the hauler offer bin cleaning service?
 - ◆ Can your building be part of the Recycle BC collection?
 - ◆ Bins should be easy to access with appropriate signage.
- **Costs will vary** depending on what service you choose, multiple collection days will cost more. When recyclables and food waste are properly separated from garbage, you may be able to switch over to a smaller garbage bin or less frequent garbage collection.

Step 3 – Get everyone participating

- **Provide** as much **notice** as possible about the new collection service.
- **Promote** the collection service at meetings and in common areas.
- Have the waste hauler **provide information** to all residents.
- **Ask** residents for **feedback**.
- **Share** the contact information of the person in the building that can answer questions.
- Once the program launches, make sure the collection area is **clean** so residents keep using the area.



Step 4 – Monitoring

- Continue to **monitor** to determine if you need more or fewer collection bins or if you have contamination in your bins.
- Ensure the **signage** is clean and visible.
- Have periodic **workshops** with your residents about using the collection service. Include your hauler.
- **Educate** new residents and give refreshers to existing residents.