

Frequently Asked Questions about Recycling in Penticton

Will there be any changes to the City's existing recycling program?

The current recycling program will not change. Packaging and printed paper materials, plastic containers, and metal containers are all still recyclable at your curbside. Plastic bags, polystyrene (Styrofoam), and glass are **only** recyclable at [J & C Bottle Depot](#) or [Campbell Mountain Landfill](#). Recyclables will only be collected from your curbside if they are contained within the designated recycle cart issued by the City.

Can I still use my blue box to put out recycling?

No, only City issued recycle carts will be used for collection.

Can I still use my old blue cart or can to put out recycling?

No, only City issued recycle carts will be used for collection.

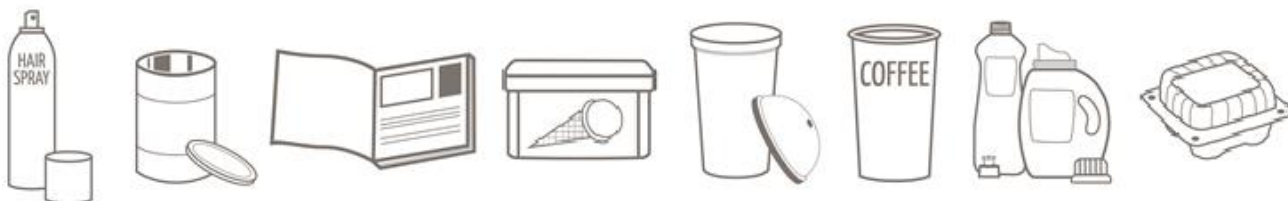
Can I still use blue or clear plastic bags to put out recycling?

No, only City issued recycle carts will be used for collection. When using your recycle cart, do not use blue or clear bags - put all your recyclables in loosely.



What are some examples of recyclables that I can put in my recycle cart?

We want to encourage people to recycle more packages and printed materials, more of the time. Recycling saves space in your garbage cart, and contributes to a sustainable future. The City recycling program is easy to follow.



The following are just some examples of what can be placed loosely inside of your City issued recycle cart:

- Paper pet food bags
- Paper and plastic cups for hot and cold drinks
- Gable top cartons
- Newspapers
- Cardboard boxes
- Aseptic boxes or cartons
- Aerosol cans and caps
- Spiral wound paper cans and lids
- Paper bags
- Metal cans and lids for food
- Plastic trays and tops
- Plastic pails less than 25L
- Plastic garden pots and trays.

Do I have to sort the recycling?

No sorting is required, recycling is easy in Penticton. Co-mingled recycling is encouraged – place everything loosely in your recycle cart and do not use clear or blue bags. Be sure the lid of your recycle cart is able to securely close.

What can't I put out in my recycling?

Items like glass, polystyrene foam (Styrofoam), plastic bags, and plastic film have to go to [J & C Bottle Depot](#) or [Campbell Mountain Landfill](#) for recycling. Plastic bags can be returned to most stores they were acquired from. This is an important step to prevent contamination in recycling. Other items such as batteries, light bulbs, propane tanks, power tools, and electronics can be dropped off for free at [Campbell Mountain Landfill](#).

What are contaminated materials?

When you put something into recycling that is not part of the program, it contaminates the rest of the recycling you put out, preventing it from being recycled. Common contaminated materials are plastic bags and film, polystyrene (Styrofoam), and glass. Very dirty recyclables, such as greasy pizza boxes or unwashed plastic containers are also contaminants.

Why can't I recycle plastic bags from home?

Plastic bags are considered a contaminant when recycling from home. The sorting facilities where the mixed recyclables are sent are composed of many different conveyor belts and sorting mechanisms. Plastic bags and plastic film get caught up in the mechanical systems and interfere with the automated sorting process.

How do I reduce the amount of contaminated recyclable materials I put out?

If you follow the list of allowable materials, this will reduce the amount of contaminated materials entering your recycling.

The best way is to understand what is recyclable and what must go to [J & C Bottle Depot](#). Some materials such as glass, plastic films, and polystyrene (Styrofoam) are only recyclable at [J & C Bottle Depot](#) or [Campbell Mountain Landfill](#).

I still have questions. Who do I call?

We're here to help! Call us at 250-490-2500 and we can help you with specific questions or explain changes directly. For recycle related questions, please call the Recycle Council of British Columbia's [recycle hotline](#) at 1-800-667-4321.

For full lists of what you can recycle, check out the [City's Garbage and Recycling Calendar](#) or visit www.penticton.ca/recycling. The Recycle Council of British Columbia is an excellent source as well, be sure to look at their [Recyclepedia](#) for an in-depth guide at where to recycle some uncommon items.