

Recycling FAQ

What is the partnership between the Town of Creston and RecycleBC?

The Town entered a partnership with RecycleBC in 2022. RecycleBC provides a financial incentive for the Packaging and Paper Products collected in the curbside program. All monies received from RecycleBC for the curbside recycling collection services are rebated into the Curbside Collection program, which reduces the user fees on your utility bill for the service.

Under the RecycleBC agreement, Creston may be subject to Service Level Failure Penalties for the improper separation of recyclables. Service Level Failure Penalties for recycling contamination at the collection stage charged to the Town would have to be made up through increased user fees. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ONLY PLACE RECYCLABLE MATERIAL IN YOUR BLUE BOX!

Where can I find information on what I can and can't recycle?

The Town of Creston Curbside Collection Program collects residential Packaging and Paper Products (PPP) in agreement with RecycleBC. You can find what's acceptable to place in your curbside recycling bin by visiting this link:

<https://creston.ca/DocumentCenter/View/3133/Schedule-A---Accepted-Waste>

This information is also available on the **Creston Recycles** mobile phone app that is free to download through the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

- For more information about RecycleBC's PPP programs and collection locations, visit www.recyclebc.ca
- For what is accepted at local recycling depots visit the Regional District of Central Kootenay website at <https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/waste-recycling/recycling/what-can-i-recycle.html>
- If you are looking to recycle items that are not PPP, visit the Recycling Council of British Columbia at www.rcbc.ca

What do I do with Shredded Paper?

Shredded paper can go in your recycling. It must be contained in a closed cardboard box or paper bag – it cannot be put loose in the bin. For example, small quantities can be put in an empty cereal box or brown paper bag. Large quantities could be put in a large cardboard box and set-out beside your other recycling bins

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(make sure the box is closed). Write “Recycling - Shredded Paper” on the box in marker so it’s identifiable for collection.

Consider taking large amounts of shredded paper to a Recycle BC Depot (Creston Recycling Depot @ 412 Helen Street, beside the carwash) where you can put shredded paper directly in with other paper products.

Smaller amounts of shredded paper can also go in with your food waste. Shredded paper works nicely to absorb extra moisture from the food items you put in your green cart.

What if I have more recyclables than will fit in the bin I was provided at the start of the program?

You may place as many containers of recyclables you need on the curb on your recycling collection day, provided the containers are clearly marked for recycling, have an open top and contain a maximum of 18 Kg (40 lbs) of material. Containers do not have to be a blue bin – you could use a garbage can or storage tote for example. If it is not obvious that your container is designated for recyclables it may not be collected.

Recycling symbol stickers to identify non-standard recycling containers are available at Town Hall, at no cost, with a limit of 1 per customer, or you can make your own label, as shown below.

If you are providing your own plastic recycling bin, be advised that the weather is hard on plastics. Plastic containers that are not made to withstand cold temperatures or direct sunlight are susceptible to cracks and breakage, even when handled with care. Choose something that is durable and made to withstand harsh weather conditions to avoid additional costs of having to replace bins.

The example below shows a large garbage can used as an additional recycling bin, though any container, 120 L or smaller is acceptable.

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What do I do if my recycling bin breaks?

You will only be provided with one 83L recycling bin from the Town at the start of the new Curbside Collection Program. Any additional or replacement bins required will be supplied by the homeowner or a 83L Creston branded blue bin can be purchased from Town Hall for \$25, plus applicable taxes.

What is Other Flexible Plastic Packaging (flexible plastic), and why is it not accepted in curbside collection?

Flexible plastics **cannot** be picked up at the curb because they are difficult to separate from other recyclables in a sorting facility. They wrap around machinery and impair the recyclability of other recyclables.

The Flexible Plastic category consists of: plastic bags of all types, plastic overwrap, crinkly plastic (ex. chip and granola bar wrappers), stand-up and zipper lock pouches, flexible packaging with plastic seal, non-food protective packaging, woven and net plastic bags, protective and squishy cushion packaging (ex. bubble envelopes), and any other type of plastic film.

So if flexible plastics aren't compatible with the curbside program, where can they be taken?

- The **412 Helen Street** depot, (behind Arrow Mountain Carwash), collects the "Other Flexible Plastic Packaging" category. Here, they are collected as one stream, meaning you can sort all your flexible plastics together and

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place them in the same bin at the depot. They can be collected this way because these types of plastics are compatible when being recycled together. The depot's hours of operation are **Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Depots can collect "other flexible plastics" while curbside programs cannot because depot recycling is already sorted and the flexible plastics can't contaminate other recyclable materials at a sorting facility.

What's not included in depot collection of "Other Flexible Plastic Packaging": Plastic-lined paper or paper-lined plastic, plastic strapping, flexible/soft 6-pack rings, plastics labeled biodegradable, compostable, or oxo-degradable. With our current recycling program, these must go into the garbage.

- If you are unable to take your flexible plastics to the depot, they can be thrown in the garbage.
- A few flexible plastics can be reused. For example, clean plastic bags can be used around the house to store and carry items.
- Please note that the Creston Landfill does not accept flexible plastics as part of their recyclable collection as they are only a satellite depot.

For more information on flexible plastics, visit www.recyclebc.ca/flexiblepackaging/ Placing flexible plastics in your Blue Box could result in Creston being assessed a Service Level Failure Penalty for the improper separation of recyclables. If your Blue Box contains flexible plastic it will not be picked-up.

Why are plastic bags and overwrap not accepted in Curbside Collection?

Plastic bags, overwrap and film are also included in the Flexible Plastic category. When they are collected with other material, they are difficult to separate and less of the film and other materials can be recycled. Plastic bags, overwrap and many other types of film can be taken to the Creston Recycling Depot (412 Helen Street, beside the carwash) for recycling. Placing plastic bags and overwrap in your Blue Box could result in Creston being assessed a Service Level Failure

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Penalty for the improper separation of recyclables. If your Blue Box contains plastic bags and overwrap, it will not be picked-up.

Why is Styrofoam not accepted in Curbside Collection?

When foam containers and cushion packaging are collected with other recyclables, they can break into pieces that mix with other materials. The pieces are difficult to separate, meaning less of the foam and other materials can be recycled. Foam packaging can be taken to the Creston Recycling Depot (412 Helen Street, beside the carwash) for recycling. Placing styrofoam in your Blue Box could result in Creston being assessed a Service Level Failure Penalty for the improper separation of recyclables. If your Blue Box contains styrofoam it will not be picked-up.

Why is glass not accepted in Curbside Collection?

When glass is mixed with other Curbside Collection materials, it can easily break and mix with other materials. First and foremost, broken glass is a safety hazard for anyone handling recyclables. Broken glass is also difficult to separate, and therefore less of the glass and other materials can be recycled. Deposit glass bottles can be taken to Columbia Bottle- Recycle (1420 Northwest Blvd) for a refund. Non-refundable glass containers and jars can be taken to the Creston Recycling Depot (412 Helen Street, beside the carwash) for recycling. Placing glass in your Blue Box could result in Creston being assessed a Service Level Failure Penalty for the improper separation of recyclables. If your Blue Box contains glass, it will not be picked-up.

Why can garbage cans have lids but recycling containers shouldn't?

At this time, lids on curbside recycling bins will not be permitted. Lids on bins generally have a tighter fit, are more difficult for collectors to remove than those on garbage cans, and are more prone to cracking and breaking. Additionally, because residents are entitled to put out unlimited recycling bins, it could

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significantly slow the collection process down if lids had to be removed from multiple bins at each household. This causes an increase in truck emissions as well.

Concerned about litter? We kindly ask that if you find recyclable materials that have escaped bins on or near your property that you pick them up and put them in your bin for the next collection. Some steps can be taken to reduce the amount of litter from your recycling bins:

- Put out more bins in order to keep the level of material in each bin below the rim and help prevent recyclables from falling and blowing out.
- Organize your recyclables so that heavier items are on top of the lighter items.
- Putting your recyclables out on the morning of your collection day instead of the night before will also help reduce litter.

Why can't plastic bags be used for recycling?

RecycleBC has mandated the use of bins instead of bags for the following reasons:

- Eliminates the waste created by unrecyclable plastic bags
- Eliminates the need to open bags to remove recyclables at the sorting facilities
- Eliminates bags getting tangled in sorting equipment

It also eliminates the cost of purchasing bags for residents.

If I can't determine if an item is recyclable, should I put it in my curbside recycling anyway?

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

We can appreciate wanting to do your best to keep recyclable materials out of the landfill. However, materials that are not recycled under RecycleBC should not go in your curbside collection. Contamination can be difficult to separate and damaging to sorting equipment, leading to more clean recyclables being thrown in the garbage.

You can check if an item is recyclable using these links:

<https://creston.ca/DocumentCenter/View/3133/Schedule-A---Accepted-Waste>
and <https://creston.ca/DocumentCenter/View/3184/Schedule-B---Prohibited-Waste> and on the **Creston Recycles** app.

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Can I recycle Compostable Plastics?

Plastic packaging labeled compostable, biodegradable, oxodegradable, or photodegradable is not accepted in your recycling bin or food waste cart.

Can I recycle plastic take-out containers?

More and more businesses are providing plastic take-out containers, cups, lids and straws. Packaging for take-out meals varies between restaurants and most of it is recyclable.

Check out the website identified below for commonly used packaging for take-out and how you can recycle it:

<https://recyclebc.ca/how-to-recycle-common-take-out-packaging/>

What do I do with large folded cardboard that cannot fit in my bin?

Large cardboard must be flattened and cut down into a maximum of 30 inches by 30 inches (roughly 76 cm) and secured with twine. It can then be stacked beside or between your recycling containers. Staples and tape are accepted. If you have cardboard larger than 30 inches by 30 inches and it cannot be cut down, you can take it to the 412 Helen Street Recycling Depot.

What happens to my recyclables after RecycleBC collects them?

RecycleBC takes the recyclables collected through curbside programs as well as recyclables taken to recycling depots and transports them to facilities to be sorted. They are then baled and prepped for sale on end markets.

Visit <https://recyclebc.ca/post-collection/> for more info on the recycling process.

Get the **Creston Recycles** app on your mobile device to assist you with what-goes-where.

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