



# Organics and Recycling Guide For Tenants

## Diverting Waste in Squamish

In 2019 Squamish residents sent an average of **563 kg** of waste per person to the landfill. Squamish's Council Strategic Plan aims to minimize the per person disposal rate to **300 kg** per year by 2021. In order to achieve this target, we've made some changes to the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw that will encourage everyone to help reduce their waste by keeping organics and recyclables out of the landfill (this is called waste diversion).

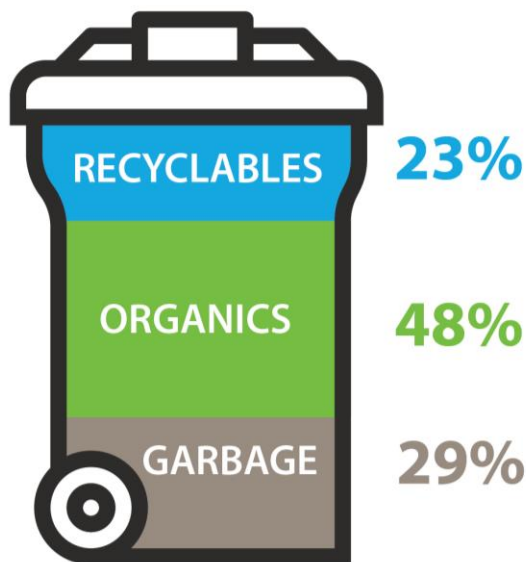
This guide will explain the changes and how to comply, as well as provide some information about why diverting waste is important.

### WHO?

This guide is for tenants in multi-family homes (apartment buildings, condos, and townhouses) who share a waste room.

Recent audits reveal that many of the materials sent to the landfill could have been diverted for composting or recycling. The Squamish Zero Waste Strategy also identified multi-family homes (as well as businesses and organizations) as the largest generators of waste in our community, producing approximately **55%** of all the waste arriving at the landfill. Many people want to align their environmental values and their actions – how can we do better?

Waste in Multi-Family Homes (2018 Waste Audit results)



### The Squamish Landfill

With the Squamish Landfill close to reaching its full capacity, a multi-million-dollar capital project was completed in 2019 to build a wall to expand the landfill vertically. This 10-metre high wall is expected to give the Landfill a lifespan increase of between five and 10 years. But you can do your part by keeping organics and recyclables out of the garbage, and help increase the lifespan of the Squamish Landfill.

### WHAT?

The Solid Waste Utility Bylaw improves the way Squamish manages its waste by banning organics and recyclables from the landfill, and requiring the use of clear bags for garbage.

To comply with this bylaw, residents need to:

- Separate organics, recyclables, and garbage and dispose of them appropriately
- Place garbage in clear, non-coloured, transparent plastic bags (an opaque privacy bag can be used for 10% of your garbage)

## WHEN?

Every tenant must ensure that organics, recyclables, and garbage are placed in the appropriate container, without contamination since the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw was adopted by Council on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The District of Squamish recognizes that changes to the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw means changes in the way you manage waste in your home. That's why we have created this guide to help you start diverting waste today!

## WHY?

Everyone living, visiting and doing business in Squamish creates waste. Reducing and diverting waste from the Landfill makes economic, social and environmental sense.

### Dollars and Cents

As the costs associated with the collection, transportation and processing of waste continue to steadily rise, the benefits of reducing waste and keeping it out of the landfill become more apparent. Properties that actively manage their waste are able to reduce waste-associated costs and avoid overage charges, now and into the future.

For example, the tipping fees for organics and recyclables have been set lower than the fee for general garbage. However, if your building's garbage destined for landfill is discovered to contain more than 10% organic or recyclable material (or 5% in 2021) that could have been diverted, it will be subject to the **Mixed Waste fee**. This fee is more than double the fee for Garbage and is designed to incentivise diversion and penalize those who are not managing contamination of waste appropriately. Properties that do not separate their waste may also be subject to a \$500 fine under the Squamish Solid Waste Bylaw. This is just one way that separating waste can save money.

### People and Planet

Organic waste is a valuable resource.

Diverting organics from garbage sent to the landfill helps to:

- reduce methane emissions, a greenhouse gas up to **72** times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>;
- extend the lifespan of the Squamish landfill (saving all taxpayers money);
- return nutrients to soil, which both improves soil health and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers;
- boost soil's ability to retain water and decrease runoff;
- provide an all-natural soil amendment to support farmers producing food in our region;
- show a clear commitment to a greener future, in line with shared community values;
- encourage more environmentally sustainable behaviour in homes and workplaces.





# HOW?

- Separate organics and recyclables from your garbage
- Place separated waste into the appropriate bins in your building's waste room
- Drop off any materials not accepted in the waste room at the appropriate depot facility (see page 9)
- Use clear bags for all your garbage (with the option of a small opaque privacy bag, which cannot exceed 10% of your total garbage)

## Selecting an Organics Bin

Pick an organics bin that suits your space. Place it under the sink or sit it on your counter top for easy access. Organics bins come in many shapes, materials and sizes. Consider re-purposing a container you already have before buying new and select something that can be easily washed (and thereby avoid using a bin liner every time).

Used with permission from Metro Vancouver



1 Line organics bin with newspaper or paper bag



2 Fill bin with food scraps and organics, including food soiled paper



3 Empty into the building's 'Food Scraps and Organics' bin

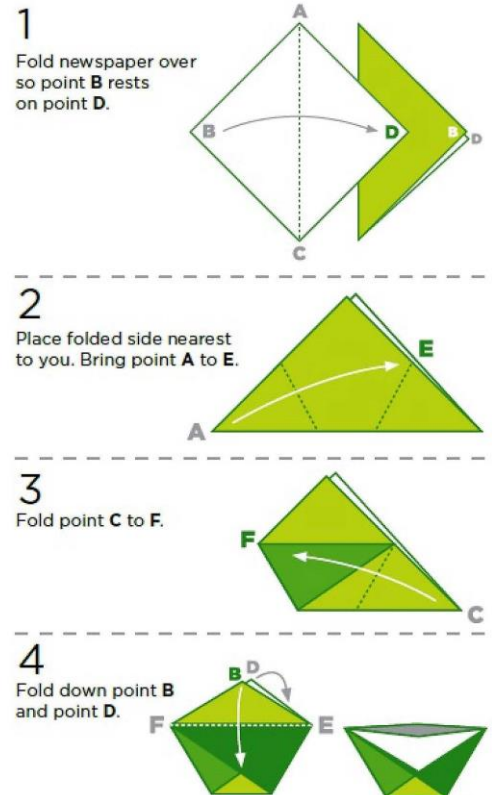


4 Naturally clean with vinegar and baking soda to prevent odour

## Choosing a Bin Liner

In some cases, you may want to use a bin liner. You can use a paper bag or even fashion one out of newspaper.

## MAKE A KITCHEN CONTAINER LINER



Used with permission from City of Vancouver

## Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics

Hoping to do the right thing, many people purchase plastics labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable". However, these products have many problems when it comes to waste management.

**Biodegradable** plastics eventually break down into smaller pieces of plastic (micro-plastics) and are very challenging to remove from the environment. Because these plastics have chemicals added to help them break down faster, they also cannot be recycled. Therefore, plastics labeled biodegradable belong in the garbage and should never be used in organics bins.

Certified **compostable** eventually plastics break down into organic material. However, they must be heated at a consistently high temperature for a certain period of time in order to do so and many compost facilities are not able to process them. Due to their chemical composition, they also cannot be recycled and, in many cases, should be placed in the garbage. Certified compostable plastics should only be used as a last resort (after trying paper liners). As a general rule, plastic "compostable" bags are not accepted in Squamish's residential organics collection bins, however multi-family homes will need to discuss this with their waste hauler. Talk to your property manager if you have questions about what can be accepted in your building.



**Love this place.  
Reduce your waste.**

*Food isn't garbage.  
It belongs in the  
organics bin.*

## REDUCE

Reduction is the key to good waste management. Review purchasing, storage and portion size for opportunities to reduce food waste.

## RESCUE

Consider options for saving food from spoiling. Can it be frozen, canned, vacuum sealed, etc.? Donate nonperishable food locally to the Squamish Food Bank or Squamish Helping Hands Society.

## RECYCLE

Food that goes into the organics bin is recycled into compost and used locally to enrich soil for landscaping, community gardens and farms.

## YES PLEASE



### ALL FOOD WASTE

Fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, pasta, bakery items, cheese and eggshells.



### FOOD-SOILED PAPER

Napkins, paper towels, tea bags, coffee grounds/filters and heavily soiled pizza boxes.



### PLANTS

Tree trimmings, flowers, leaves, grass, brush and weeds. No invasive species.



### OTHER

Wood stir sticks and chopsticks.

## NO THANKS

The following items do not belong in the "Food Scraps and Organics Bin", but should be disposed of responsibly and recycled if available.

- X** Invasive species
- X** Conventional to-go containers and disposable cups
- X** Plastic or styrofoam
- X** Glass
- X** Metal
- X** Wax Paper
- X** Waxed Cardboard
- X** Rubber bands and twist ties
- X** Stickers
- X** Diapers
- X** Biodegradable and compostable plastics



## Wildlife Tips

- Keep organics indoors and inaccessible to bears and wildlife.
- Keep wildlife out: ensure the waste room doors are locked and bin lids are closed at all times.
- Minimize odours by keeping potentially smelly items such as fish and meat in your refrigerator or freezer until ready for discarding. This will reduce the potential for maggots too.
- Include yard waste from your garden, but don't include invasive species.
- Keep plastics out (including compostable and biodegradable versions).
- Sprinkle your food scraps bin with baking soda to combat odour and rinse each time you empty it.



**TIP** – Did you know that dirty recycling is considered a wildlife attractant? Be sure to rinse your recyclables before depositing them in the bin.

### Go Garburator Free



Since December 2016, garburators cannot be installed in any residential dwelling (District of Squamish Bylaw No. 2474, 2016). Disposing of food waste in a garburator uses excess water and electricity, and adds problem materials, such as suspended solids, oils and grease to wastewater. It can also use up the available oxygen in water, resulting in oxygen levels that are too low to support aquatic life. Garburators are not considered a sustainable way to manage organic waste. Compost your food scraps and organics instead.

**TIP** – Be careful of what you flush down the toilet! Diapers, grease, menstrual products, and wipes (even if they are labeled “flushable”) will block the pipes. Only flush human waste.

### Why do I now need to put my garbage in **clear bags**?

Clear bag programs were first introduced in Canada in the early 2000s and allow municipalities to periodically check the contents. This protects waste workers and improves diversion rates.

Clear plastic bags help increase residents' participation in diverting recyclables or organic material from the waste stream. Black garbage bags can hide a multitude of materials that should not be placed in the garbage, including toxic items (i.e. paint, solvents, batteries) and recyclables.

### What about...?

- **Privacy** – Residents are permitted a small opaque bag about the size of a grocery bag in each clear bag for personal items.
- **Availability** – The District is working with local retailers to ensure clear bags are available in a variety of sizes.
- **Cost** – Many businesses in Squamish no longer offer free grocery bags and so residents already need to purchase garbage bags. The only difference between clear and coloured bags are an added dye, so any cost increases should be negligible.



### Local Champion!

Residents of Aqua Coastal Village take recycling seriously. The waste room is spacious and clean, with bins clearly labeled. Residents even collect refundables and volunteer their time to sort, count, and bag them for drop off at the Bottle Depot (using their express drop-off). In doing so, residents have collected around \$20,000 for their strata, and have used the money on building amenities (such as accessible entrances and bike racks).



# RETHINK, REFUSE, REDUCE

## The Waste Hierarchy:

As you go about your daily life, you will need to make decisions about how and what you consume. The Waste Hierarchy is a good tool to try and limit your waste. As much as possible, try to practice the green “R”s (Rethink, Refuse, Reduce) before moving down the hierarchy.



Want more resources to help reduce waste?  
Visit [squamish.ca/apartments](https://squamish.ca/apartments)




You can limit the waste you create by changing some simple habits:

- Refuse what you do not need.
- Bring your own bag (BYOB).
- Carry a reusable water bottle and coffee cup.
- Pack meals to-go in reusable containers, an ecofriendly wrap (beeswax wrap) or tin foil instead. Skip saran wrap and Ziploc bags, which can't be recycled.
- Say no to disposable straws and take a sip instead, or purchase a reusable glass or metal straw.
- Shop in bulk to avoid unnecessary packaging.
- Skip single-serve coffee pods by brewing a pot instead.
- Buy second-hand.
- Try to repair items before replacing them.
- Make your own products, so you know what goes into them - you eliminate the packaging and you can save money.
- Speak up to local businesses who could be providing less or better packaging.
- Educate yourself on zero waste living to reduce your waste footprint.
- Choose natural bathroom products. Scrubs containing microbeads send tiny bits of plastic down the drain, which end up in waterways.
- Opt for a compostable toothbrush (e.g. bamboo) instead of a disposable plastic toothbrush.
- Reuse and repurpose whatever you can - get creative!

Remember, the best way to deal with waste  
is to not produce it in the first place.

# LET'S TALK TRASH

We have the power to collectively reduce our waste footprint by maximizing our waste diversion efforts. Familiarizing ourselves with how each waste stream is processed helps us to better understand the steps required for success. So, here is the nitty gritty on recycling and composting in **multi-family homes, commercial businesses and institutions.**

WHERE	REMEMBER	HOW	END RESULT
<b>Food Scraps &amp; Organics</b>	<b>GREEN BIN</b> Keep all plastics out (including biodegradable and compostable plastics!) Keep food scraps and organics out of the landfill to avoid creating methane, a harmful greenhouse gas.	Food is <b>COMPOSTED</b> at the Sea to Sky Soils Composting Facility through an aerobic process.  Nutrient-rich soil amendment used for landscaping and gardening.	
<b>Printed Paper &amp; Paper Packaging</b>	<b>FLATTEN</b> <b>PAPER BIN</b> Food soiled paper (napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, etc.) cannot be recycled – put them in your Food Scraps & Organics bin.	Cardboard and paper are both broken down with a <b>WATER-BASED PROCESS</b> , mulched and combined with virgin fibres. Oils can interfere with this process so food-soiled paper, like pizza boxes, should go in the Food Scraps & Organics Bin.  Paper and cardboard products with recycled content.	
<b>Corrugated Cardboard</b>	<b>FLATTEN</b> <b>CARDBOARD BIN</b> The wavy (corrugated) centre piece found when looking at the edge of a cardboard box differentiates it from paper packaging. Meal preparation subscription boxes are also accepted.		
<b>Glass Bottles &amp; Jars</b>	<b>EMPTY &amp; RINSE</b> <b>GLASS BIN</b> Glass should always be recycled separately. When glass is mixed with other recyclables, it can easily break and leave shards that cause injuries and cannot be removed. Remove metal lids and put them in the Mixed Containers bin. You do not need to remove the label.	Glass is <b>CRUSHED</b> and used as road aggregate at the landfill.  Used locally as road aggregate in the Squamish Landfill.	
<b>Refundable Beverage Containers</b>	<b>EMPTY &amp; RINSE</b> <b>SQUAMISH BOTTLE DEPOT</b> You can return these at the Squamish Bottle Depot and get money back.	Metal is <b>MELTED</b> , impurities such as labels and left over contaminants burn off.  Plastic is processed into small pellets that cannot chemically re-bond with any impurities present.	Metal can be recycled infinitely into new metal containers.  Plastic is often down-cycled into a lesser quality type of plastic. Multi-material items, such as tetra packs are difficult and expensive to recycle and best avoided.
<b>Mixed Containers</b>	<b>EMPTY &amp; RINSE</b> <b>BLUE BIN</b> Try to avoid plastics and styrofoam - these are often down-cycled (meaning the value of the resource is greatly reduced or lost when processed). For example, a plastic bag cannot be recycled into a new bag without the addition of new oil-based material.  Plastic-lined coffee cups, milk containers, and tetra packs are accepted.  Plastics must be cleaned and properly recycled.	If you can easily poke your fingers through it - it belongs in this stream.  Keep our zipper locked bags, cling wrap & crinkly plastic.	
<b>Plastic Bags &amp; Film</b>	<b>EMPTY &amp; RINSE</b> <b>GFL OR LONDON DRUGS</b> If you can easily poke your fingers through it - it belongs in this stream.  Keep our zipper locked bags, cling wrap & crinkly plastic.		
<b>Styrofoam Packaging</b>	<b>EMPTY &amp; RINSE</b> <b>GFL OR LONDON DRUGS</b> Separate colour and white plastic foam. Needs to be cleaned.	Melted or compacted to condense for shipping. At the end market it's chipped up, melted again and chopped into pellets.	Down-cycled into picture frames and crown moulding, which are garbage once used.
<b>Other Flexible Packaging</b>	<b>EMPTY &amp; RINSE</b> <b>GFL OR LONDON DRUGS</b> It belongs in this stream if: - it is crinkly and loud when crumpled - it is flexible but not stretchy - it has a zipper lock seal  Keep out clingwrap (garbage) and G-pack rings (BC Liquor Stores).	Flexible packaging is used for recycling research in B.C. Items must be cleaned to be properly recycled.	Used in research and development to find efficient ways to recycle this difficult material, or processed into engineered fuel.
<b>Garbage to LANDFILL</b>	 Animal waste, diapers & sanitary products, hangers, straws, broken toys, biodegradable and compostable plastics  Landfills are designed to bury waste, not break it down.  Can it be reused, recycled or composted instead?  Squamish's Landfill is nearing capacity, so diverting waste is more important than ever!		

The best way to deal with waste is not to create it in the first place. **REDUCE, reuse, then recycle.**



## NEED HELP SORTING?

Search for an item in the Waste Wizard at [squamish.ca/waste-wizard](http://squamish.ca/waste-wizard) or using the Squamish ReCollect app



**SQUAMISH**



# WHAT GOES WHERE

These items are not accepted in the curbside collection programs.

	GFL Recycle Depot	Squamish Landfill	London Drugs	Bottle Depot	ASM	Nesters Market	Newport Auto	Triton Automotive	BC Liquor Store	RONA Squamish	Save-On-Foods	Pharmacies	Squamish Rebuild	Walmart	Kal Tire	Harold's Auto Recycling
Antifreeze																
Rechargeable & Single-Use Batteries																
Automotive Batteries																
Beverage Containers																
Cardboard (Large quantities)																
Cartridges (ink & laser)																
Cellphones																
Concrete & Bricks																
Construction & Building Materials																
Electronics																
Fire Extinguishers																
Flexible Packaging**																
Broken & Unusable Furniture																
Gasoline																
Glass																
Lightbulbs & Tubes																
Light Fixtures, Christmas Lights, & Lamps																
Lights - Commercial																
Major Appliances																
Mattresses & Box Springs																
Medication & Used Needles																
Motor Oil, Filters & Containers																
Outdoor Power Equipment																
Paint & Paint Cans																
Plastic Bags																
Propane Tanks & Green Camping Fuel Containers																
Small Appliances & Power Tools																
Smoke & CO2 Alarms																
Solvents, Gasoline, Pesticides & Flammable Materials																
Styrofoam																
Thermostats																
Tires																
Wood Waste																

\*Please note this list is subject to change. Check online for our most up-to-date resources.

\*\* For a detailed list, visit: [recyclebc.ca/flexiblepackaging](http://recyclebc.ca/flexiblepackaging)

## QUEENS WAY RECYCLING DEPOT

38950 Queens Way  
Squamish, BC  
604.892.5604

### HOURS OF OPERATION\*

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
SUNDAY CLOSED

\*Closed Christmas Day and stat holidays.

\*\*\*This is an after-work site, please adhere to the posted hours of operations.  
\*\*\*This facility is for residential use only. Commercial and industrial materials are not accepted.

## SQUAMISH LANDFILL & TRANSFER STATION

Landfill Rd  
Squamish, BC  
604.898.5635

### HOURS OF OPERATION\*

DAILY 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

\*Closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.

## SQUAMISH BOTTLE DEPOT

38927 Queens Way #15  
Squamish, BC  
604.815.4699

### HOURS OF OPERATION

TUESDAY - SUNDAY 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MONDAY CLOSED

Curbside  
Collection



## ITEM NOT LISTED?

Search for an item using the new **Waste Wizard** look up tool available through the Squamish Curbside Collection app or at [squamish.ca/collection-schedule](http://squamish.ca/collection-schedule).



A **ZERO WASTE** PATH FOR SQUAMISH WILL  
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY,  
SUPPORT GREEN JOBS AND  
HELP BUILD A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY.  
LOVE THIS PLACE, **REDUCE** YOUR WASTE.



This guide was developed in part by The Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment

