



## Clear Garbage Bag Program Frequently Asked Questions

**COVID-19- Novel Coronavirus:** until further notice, the Township is asking that you please bag **ALL** garbage and **DO NOT** place waste loosely in garbage containers. Loose materials will **NOT** be collected. **This small change helps protect collectors from the risk COVID-19.**

**\*\*The FAQs below apply to typical circumstances\***

### 1. What is a Clear Garbage Bag?

A clear garbage bag must be 'see-through'. Curbside collection workers and landfill attendants must be able to easily view the contents within your garbage bag in order to ensure there are no recyclable materials or hazardous waste.

### 2. When Does the Program Start?

**From March 1, 2020 to September 1, 2021** residents start to use clear bags. Although opaque bags will still be picked up at the curb and accepted at the waste site residents will be advised of the requirements to use clear bags.

Residents still using opaque bags will be provided with information about the new program to help them transition to the new Clear Bag Program.

The municipality wants residents and businesses to successfully use the new program!

**As of September 1, 2021 clear bags must be used.** If an opaque bag is used it will not be picked-up at the curb or allowed to be taken to the Selwyn Waste Site at 1480 County Road 18.

### 3. What if there are items in my garbage I do not want other people to see?

One (1) small "opaque privacy bag" can be placed inside each clear bag for personal items, such as sanitary products, diapers, incontinence products, pet waste, or other personal items. These opaque bags are similar in size to a grocery bag.



**4. What if I use a container for curbside garbage?**

You can keep using your container; just make sure that there is no recycling in it. If you use opaque bags in a container, start using a clear bag. You can use an opaque bag (grocery-sized) for privacy items.

**5. What do I do with my left-over opaque garbage bags?**

Any leftover opaque bags can be used for future clothing donations or donated to friends/family not in a jurisdiction requiring the use of clear bags. Clear bags will not be strictly enforced until **September 1, 2021**.

**6. Is the number of bags I put out at the curb every week changing?**

No!

- Each residential dwelling will still be allowed up to two (2) containers or bags each week.
- Each commercial establishment will still be allowed up to four (4) containers or bags each week.

*Note: a container can be a metal or a plastic container (maximum capacity of 77 litres) having a handle and a fitted lid OR a clear polyethylene plastic bag 30" x 37" of 1.5 gauge thickness fastened at the top. No container shall weigh more than 30 lbs.*

**7. What happens if I do not use a clear garbage bag after September 1, 2021?**

Starting **September 1, 2021** clear garbage bags will be mandatory. If an opaque bag is used it will not be picked up at the curb or accepted at the landfill.

***Remember you can still have your small opaque bag for privacy inside the clear bag.***

**8. What retailers sell clear garbage bags?**

Clear garbage bags in regular size and kitchen size may be purchased at most places that carry opaque bags. Local retailers that sell clear garbage bags can be found at the end of this document.



**9. Do clear plastic garbage bags cost more than traditional black plastic bags?**

Both clear and black plastic garbage bags are made from the identical materials but without colouring added, so the suggested retail price should be similar.

**10. Why would a Municipality want to implement a Clear Bag Program?**

Township and County Waste By-laws currently require that recyclable materials NOT be placed in the garbage. Opaque bags do not allow effective enforcement to ensure that no recyclables end up in the waste stream.

A clear bag program will help to ensure better enforcement of existing rules prohibiting recyclable materials from ending up in the garbage bag. This will extend the life of the Selwyn Landfill Site and the Bensfort Road Landfill Site and minimize long term costs. It will also help protect the safety of collectors and landfill attendants from harmful objects in the garbage.

**11. Do other communities use clear garbage bags?**

Yes. As of 2015, over a half million Canadian households participated in a clear bag collection program. More local examples in Peterborough County include: Douro-Dummer, Trent Lakes, Asphodel Norwood, and Cavan Monaghan Townships; and most recently, the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan.

**12. Does the use of clear garbage bags increase waste diversion?**

Yes. Other participating Municipalities have reported an increase in the amount of recyclable material diverted from the garbage bag. It encourages residents to become more aware of their waste habits and helps people do their part for the environment.

**13. I am already recycling and diverting as much as I can from the garbage so why do I need to do this?**

Great Job! The only difference for you is switching to a clear bag!

This program will make sure those households that don't presently recycle, will start to.



**14. What if I have a special medical circumstance and need a larger privacy bag?**

We can accommodate special medical circumstances. Please contact the Selwyn Township Municipal Office at 705-292-9507.

**15. I use smaller white bags (e.g. 25L) for garbage bins around my house like in my kitchen and bathroom and combine them in my opaque bags for curbside pickup. Do I have to discontinue using these?**

Yes, because these bags are not transparent you will have to discontinue using them. Local retailers sell smaller clear garbage bags and we ask that you begin using these once the program begins.

**16. How do you suggest businesses in the tourism and hospitality industry that host large numbers of visitors, many from afar, enforce that garbage and recycling is sorted properly?**

It can be challenging for owners of businesses like inns and campgrounds to ensure garbage generated by their visitors is free of recyclable material when placed in clear bags, especially when many visitors from outside the Township are unaware of Township and County Waste By-laws.

Here are some ideas:

- If you supply the waste containers provide a garbage and recycling container.
- Use signage to help visitors sort their waste and recycling. Use the Township's *Let's Be Clear* Sorting Guide for inspiration.
- If you supply garbage bags ensure that they are clear ones.
- When you send confirmation of the reservation advise people of the clear bag and recycling requirements; suggest that they bring the appropriate kinds of bags
- If you have a newsletter or bulletin we can provide you with some helpful messaging to help spread the word.
- The Township can provide you with some clear bags (while supplies last). These can be distributed to your guests.
- If you sell bags at your store, only sell clear ones.
- Many accommodations have environmental considerations posted on the website and/or posted in their accommodations, add the clear bag and recycling provisions. It can be helpful to frame this as an environmentally beneficial initiative!

- If you have a central depot area for collection, add signage to help visitors to sort etc...

**17. What are some examples of divertible/recyclable materials so I won't put them in the garbage?**

Blue Box Program

- **Containers** – in one blue box place recycling containers including jars, cans, yogurt/sour cream containers, disposal drinking cups (e.g. coffee cups, soft drink cup – NO lids – lids are garbage).
- **Fibres** – in a separate blue box place newspaper, cardboard, box board, plastic bags, etc.

Scrap Metal

- There is a scrap metal bin at the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18).

Hazardous Waste

- There is a hazardous waste depot at the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18) from June to October and year round at 400 Pido Road in Peterborough
- Acceptable materials include old paint, hair spray, cleaners, gasoline, etc.

Construction and demolition

- There is a construction and demolition depot at the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18).
- Acceptable materials include wood products, plaster and drywall, household fixtures (toilets, sinks, tubs), etc.

Used tires

- There is a used tire depot at the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18). *Note: bicycle tires are not accepted.*

Waste electronics

- There is a WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) bin at the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18).
- Acceptable materials include cell phones, laptops, televisions, etc.



### Used batteries

- There are used battery collection buckets located across the Township including in the Municipal Office, schools libraries and the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18).

### Hard plastic depot

- At different times throughout the year, the County offers a hard plastic depot at the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18). We encourage you to save your hard plastics for when the depots are available.
- Accepted materials include laundry baskets, storage totes, plastic lawn furniture

### Leaf and yard collection

- Curbside Collection of leaf and yard materials takes place in the spring and fall for the areas of Bridgenorth, Ennismore (includes Arnott & Gifford Dr., Settlement area, Emerald Isle and Youngstown), Lakefield, Woodland Acres and Terraview Heights. Leaf and yard waste is accepted at the Selwyn Waste Site year-round.

### Food and organic waste

- Although accepted at the Selwyn Waste Site –try to avoid food waste in the first place. Backyard composting or using a digester are other great options to sustainably divert food and organic waste. Composters, digesters and kitchen catchers can be purchased at the Township office or through Peterborough County.

### Used books and clothing programs

- Take your gently used items to one of our Selwyn Public Library branches and New-To-You stores. There are also several donation bins located throughout the Township.

### Bottle Return

- Return your beer, alcohol and wine bottles to The Beer Store or take them to bottle return depot at the Selwyn Waste Site.



For more information on these programs, visit the following websites:

- [Peterborough County Website](#)
- [Township of Selwyn Website](#)
- [Selwyn Public Library Website](#)

### **Clear Garbage Bag Retailer Information**

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A list of retailers who sell clear garbage bags includes **but is not limited to:**

<b>Retailer Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b>Giant Tiger, Lakefield</b>	2657 Lakefield Road	705-876-7715
<b>Sullivans General Store, Ennismore</b>	472 Ennis Road	705-292-8671
<b>Circle K, Bridgenorth</b>	871 Ward St. At Gore	705-292-7661
<b>John's Valu-Mart</b>	871 Ward St.	705-292-7093
<b>Foodland, Lakefield</b>	1 Queen St.	705-652-3202
<b>Home Hardware, Lakefield</b>	24 Queen St.	705- 652-3171
<b>Home Hardware, Bridgenorth</b>	Causeway Plaza, 889 Ward St.	705-292-7667
<b>Foodland, Ennismore</b>	476 Robinson Road	705-292-6719
<b>Home Hardware, Buckhorn</b>	3350 Buckhorn Road	705-657-8741
<b>Foodland, Buckhorn</b>	3329 Buckhorn Road	705-657-3311
<b>Costco, Peterborough</b>	485 The Parkway	705-750-2600
<b>Walmart, Peterborough</b>	950 Lansdowne St.	705-876-9617
<b>Walmart, Peterborough</b>	1002 Chemong Rd.	705-742-5090