



Clear Garbage Bag Program & Waste Diversion 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.**

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?

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.

****Note: You can still have your 1 small opaque bag for privacy inside each clear bag***

3. 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. Local retailers sell smaller clear garbage bags to accommodate various sizes of garbage cans. Or you can opt by using no bag for the inside kitchen garbage and just empty the can into the clear bag to reduce the use of plastic bags.

Small white bags can be used for privacy bags (no bigger than a grocery sized bag) and can be added to the rest of the garbage.

4. 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.

5. I only create a small amount of garbage and use a grocery sized bag, will I have to put that into a clear bag?

No. If your household only generates a small grocery sized bag of garbage per week. Grocery sized opaque bags will be considered your privacy bags and have a limit of 2 allowed. You do not need to place the small opaque bags into a larger clear bag if only households only create 1-2 grocery sized garbage per week.

6. 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.

7. 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 or bag shall weigh more than 30 lbs.

8. 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 are mandatory **September 1, 2021**.

9. 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.

Note: 1 small opaque bag for privacy can be placed inside each clear bag

10. What retailers sell clear garbage bags?

Clear garbage bags in various sizes can be found at local retailers that sell garbage bags.

11. 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.

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

Township and County Waste By-laws currently require that recyclable materials NOT to 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.

All Townships in the County of Peterborough use clear bags for garbage.

13. 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.

14. 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 ensure households that do not currently recycle to change their waste sorting habits.

15. Can pet waste bags be added to the clear garbage bag?

Yes!

Individual dog waste (regardless of colour) bags can be added to the garbage. Cat/small animal litter can be added directly into the garbage. If you individually bag the litter, please use a clear (transparent) bag or add to your privacy bag.

****Note: No garbage bag/container shall weigh over 30lbs for curbside collection***

16. 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 ext 234

17. 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 clear garbage bags and recycling containers
- Use signage to help visitors sort garbage and recycling
- If you supply garbage bags ensure that they are clear
- Sending 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.
- If you sell garbage bags at your store, stock clear ones of varying sizes.
- Many accommodation establishments 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!

18. 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)
- **Papers and Plastic Bags** – in a separate blue box place newspaper, cardboard, box board, plastic bags, etc.

***Note:** Please do not bag recycling. Put loose into blue bins.*

Scrap Metal

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

Hazardous Waste: Free Drop Off

- Seasonal hazardous waste depot at the Selwyn Waste Site (1480 County Road 18) from June 1st- Sept 11, 2021
- **Year-round** drop-off at 400 Pido Road in Peterborough
- Acceptable materials include old paint, hair spray, cleaners, gasoline, etc. a list can be found on the Peterborough County Website:
<https://www.ptbocounty.ca/en/living/recycling-and-garbage.aspx#Accepted-Hazardous-Waste>

Construction and Demolition

- There is a construction and demolition depot at the Selwyn Landfill Site (1480 County Road 18).
- Acceptable materials include wood products (that are not pressure treated), plaster and drywall, ceramics (toilets, sinks, tubs), tile etc.

Shingles

- Shingles are accepted at the Selwyn Landfill site

Used Tires: Free Drop Off

- Free drop-off at the Selwyn Landfill Site (1480 County Road 18)
- Maximum of 10 tires can be dropped-off per day

Note: tractor tires are not accepted

Freon Units

- There is a freon drop off at the Selwyn Landfill Site (1480 County Rd 18)
- Acceptable materials: appliances that contain freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, air-conditioners, ice-makers, water coolers)

Electronic Waste: Free Drop-Off

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

Note: ice makers, dehumidifiers are Not accepted in the electronics and need to be properly disposed of as freon waste.

Used Batteries: Free Drop-Off

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

Leaf and Yard Waste

- 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.
Please visit <https://www.ptbocounty.ca/en/living/leaf-and-yard.aspx> for leaf and yard waste curbside collection maps and schedules
- Leaf and yard waste is accepted at the Selwyn Landfill Site year-round.
- Residents are also allowed to drop leaf and yard waste at the Peterborough Landfill (1260 Bensfort Rd)



Food and Organic Waste

- Food waste can be placed into household garbage

Note: *Limiting the amount of food waste will not only save you money but will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.*

Alternative Options: Backyard composting or backyard digesters are 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 (funds are provided to charity). 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

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

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