



# URBAN RECYCLER

Information you  
can't afford to trash  
2011 edition



## Recycling the wrong stuff wastes time and money

If you've been to Edmonton's recycling plant and watched the piles of material whiz by workers standing along conveyor belts, you know that sorting recyclables is not an easy job.

It gets even harder — much harder — when they get the wrong stuff.

"We get extension cords, garden hoses and Christmas lights," says waste engineer Jim Schubert. "Those long stringy things get wrapped in the machinery, and we have to stop the plant while someone gets it all unwrapped. It's a waste of time and money."

In 2010 the plant was shut down more than 50 times because of wrong material damaging equipment and slowing down productivity.

Then there's the dirty stuff that threatens worker safety. "We get vacuum bags full of dust," he says. "We also get kitty litter and used diapers. These all belong in the garbage where they will be turned into useful compost at the Edmonton Composting Facility."

Watch a video of the recycling plant in action. Visit [edmonton.ca/recycling](http://edmonton.ca/recycling)



Plant worker John Pereira shows off items that cause shutdowns at the recycling plant. "Recycling the right stuff is important. Only put items in your blue bag and blue bin that belong."

### These **DO NOT** go in the blue bag or blue bin

- Garden hoses
- Scrap metal
- Extension cords
- Christmas lights
- Small appliances
- Pet litter, diapers

### Inside

- **What Goes Where?** garbage, recycle or Eco Station?
- **Eco Station** locations, hours, and rates
- **How to recycle and reuse**

# GARBAGE

## What to do on your collection day

**Out by 7 a.m.**



**Keep it light**

Keep bags and cans under 20 kg (44 lbs)

**Park cars off the street**



**Use the right can**

Must be less than 100 litres, with fixed handles and no wheels. Cans larger than 100 litres will not be picked up (Bylaw 13777)

**Package sharp objects**

Put all glass, ceramics, nails, metal scraps in a box, tape closed and label as "sharps"

## When is my waste collected?

Check your collection schedule. If you need a schedule, visit [edmonton.ca/waste](http://edmonton.ca/waste) or call 311.

## Winter waste collection

- **Clear snow and ice** to give collectors clear access
- **Place on level ground** as close to the street or alley as possible
- **Don't put waste on top of windows** and snow piles
- **Place garbage away from down spouts or sump pump runoffs**

## What do I do with... ?

### → Large cardboard boxes

Flatten and put under your recycle bags so they don't blow away.

### → Tree branches

Cut down to less than 4 ft long and tie in small bundles that weigh less than 20 kg (44 lbs).

### → Grass clippings and leaves

Though not required, grass clippings and leaves can go in clear bags. We then use that material in our yard waste composting system.

### → Needles and syringes

Put in a puncture-proof container with a screw top lid and take to an Eco Station.

### → Fats, oil and grease

Store it, don't pour it! Store used cooking oil in a container no larger than 4 litres. Put the container beside your garbage.

### → Ashes, diapers, kitty litter, pet feces, sawdust, vacuum dust

Double-bag.

### → Tree stumps, roots, turf, large furniture and appliances, scrap metal and automotive parts, manure, construction and renovation material

Take to an Eco Station or the Edmonton Waste Management Centre (charges may apply).

## Most of your waste doesn't go to landfill

**20%**  
RECYCLED



**40%**  
COMPOSTED



**40%**  
LANDFILL



Right now, we divert close to 60% of household waste from landfill through recycling and composting. The organic portion of your household waste is sorted out and composted.

By 2015, 30% of your waste will be turned into biofuel. That means only one out of ten bags will go to landfill!

Only a few years ago some said zero waste to landfill was a dream. We're not there yet, but we are leading the way not just for Edmonton, but for the world.

# RECYCLING

## Recycling is easy!

No sorting is required!  
Just follow a few simple steps:

- 1 Make sure you know what to throw**  
Blue bags and apartment blue bins are for specific materials. Check our “What goes where?” page for a list of what to put in your blue bag or blue bin.
- 2 Empty and clean**  
Rinse dirty containers and remove caps and lids. Labels do not need to be removed.
- 3 Flatten**  
Flatten boxes and milk jugs. Remove and discard packing materials and liners.
- 4 Bag your plastic bags**  
Stuff your plastic bags (grocery, retail, bread and drycleaning) into one bag and tie closed.

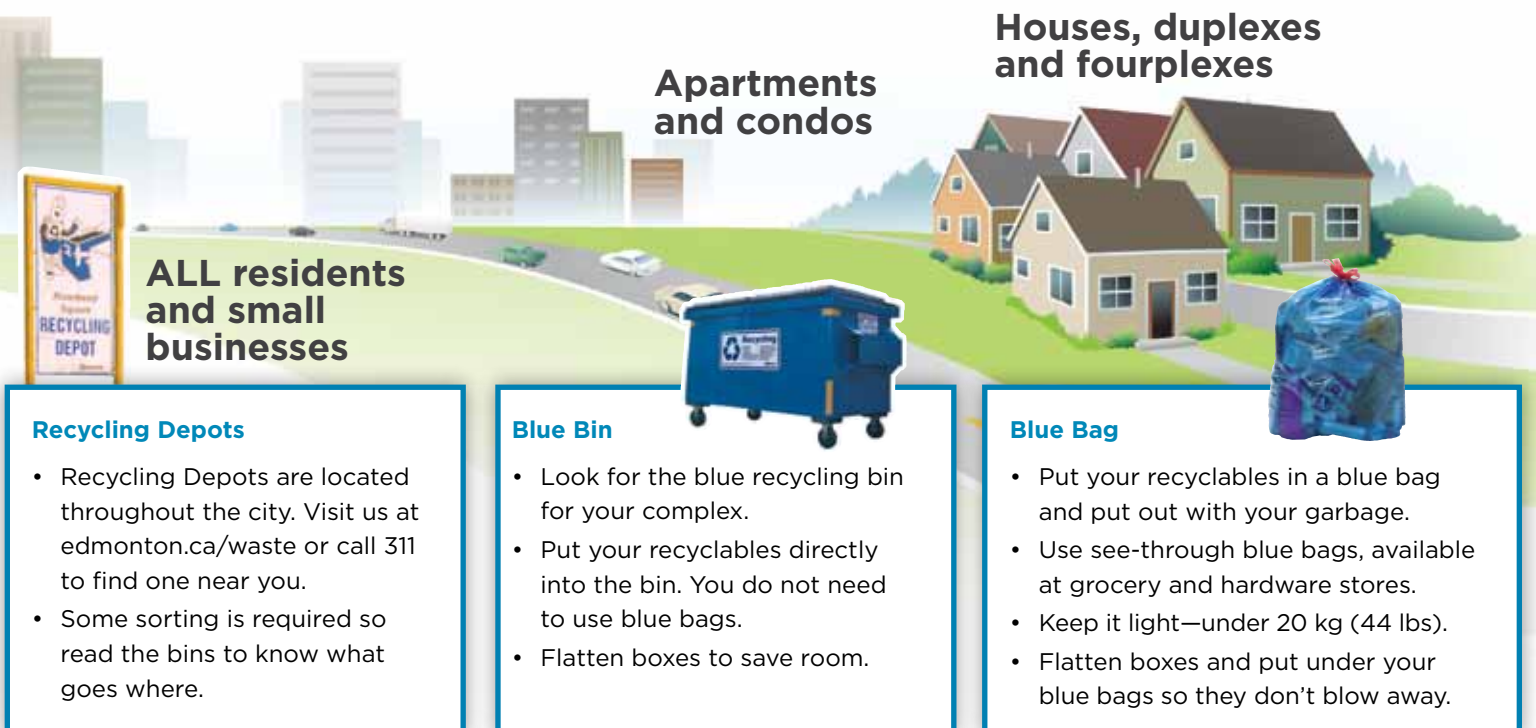
## Can it be reused?

Why throw it out when it can be reused?  
There are two easy ways to reuse your items year-round:



- 1 Reuse Directory**  
Visit our searchable directory at [edmonton.ca/reusedirectory](http://edmonton.ca/reusedirectory) to find organizations that will accept your unwanted items.
- 2 Reuse Centre**  
Donate or purchase hundreds of reusable household items. See [edmonton.ca/reuse](http://edmonton.ca/reuse) for more information.

## How can you recycle?



**ALL residents and small businesses**

**Apartment and condos**

**Houses, duplexes and fourplexes**

### Recycling Depots

- Recycling Depots are located throughout the city. Visit us at [edmonton.ca/waste](http://edmonton.ca/waste) or call 311 to find one near you.
- Some sorting is required so read the bins to know what goes where.

### Blue Bin

- Look for the blue recycling bin for your complex.
- Put your recyclables directly into the bin. You do not need to use blue bags.
- Flatten boxes to save room.

### Blue Bag

- Put your recyclables in a blue bag and put out with your garbage.
- Use see-through blue bags, available at grocery and hardware stores.
- Keep it light—under 20 kg (44 lbs).
- Flatten boxes and put under your blue bags so they don't blow away.

# ECO STATIONS



## What is an Eco Station?

Not all of your waste can be collected curbside. Eco Stations are convenient drop-off facilities to bring waste for recycling or safe disposal:

- Recyclable materials that don't belong in your blue bag or blue bin like electronics and scrap metal
- Household hazardous waste
- Big bulky items
- Each Eco Station also has a Recycling Depot

## Things to remember about hazardous waste

- **Don't mix stuff together**  
Keep materials in their original containers. Mixing them can cause dangerous chemical reactions.
- **Handle it safely**  
If you don't know what's in a container, label it "unknown" and let the Eco Station staff know you don't know what's inside. Make sure containers don't leak, and secure them in your vehicle so they don't spill.

- **Buy only what you need**  
Most household hazardous products can't be recycled.
- **Don't pour oil or chemicals into drains or storm sewers**  
They can ruin pipes costing time and money.

**Take home free paint!\***  
Usable paint is offered free of charge.

*\*Limit 4 cans per visit, quality not guaranteed*



## Rates

Item	Rate	
<b>Clean recyclables</b> (newspaper, metal cans, etc...)	<b>no charge</b>	
<b>Household hazardous waste</b> (paint, motor oil etc...)	<b>no charge</b>	
<b>Computer monitors and TVs</b> (maximum 20 per load)	<b>no charge</b>	
<b>Electrical appliances and scrap metal</b> (toaster, lawnmower etc...)	<b>no charge</b>	
<b>Tires</b> (maximum 5 per load)	<b>no charge</b>	
<b>Small items</b> (chairs or comparable volume)	<b>\$8</b>	
<b>Large items</b> (sofa, mattress or comparable volume)	<b>\$12</b>	
<b>Items needing CFC removal</b> (a fridge or freezer)	<b>\$12</b>	
<b>Loose waste or mixed loads</b> (brush and tree trimmings, soil/gravel, fencing, lumber, siding, shingles, windows)	Partial half tonne load <b>\$25 / load</b>	
	Level half tonne load <b>\$35 / load</b>	
	Heaping half tonne load <b>\$45 / load</b>	
NOTE: Rates may change January 1. Visit us at <a href="http://edmonton.ca/waste">edmonton.ca/waste</a> or call 311 for our most current rates.		<b>Cube van or trailer: <u>Subject to viewing for comparison to a half tonne load.</u></b>

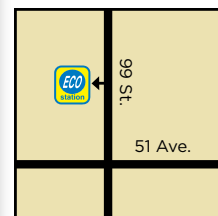
## Locations and Hours

### Summer (Mar 8 to Nov 19, 2011)

Monday to Saturday - 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
CLOSED - Sunday and holidays

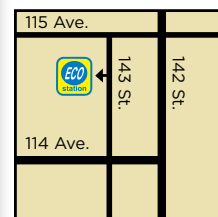
### Winter (Nov 22 to Mar, 2012)

Tuesday to Saturday - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
CLOSED - Sunday, Monday and holidays



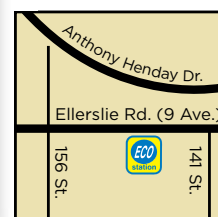
### Strathcona

5150-99 Street  
(enter from 99 St.)



### Coronation

11440-143 Street



### Ambleside

14710 Ellerslie Road

# WHAT GOES WHERE?

## GARBAGE

These items do not belong in your blue bag or blue bin. (This list does not include all possible garbage materials.)

### Food waste

- table scraps, spoiled food, peelings



### Glass/ceramics

- dishes, cups, ceramic or clay items
- plate glass, mirrors

### Metal

- foil wrap, clothes hangers, loose can lids

### Paper and cardboard

- disposable diapers
- dirty or greasy paper or cardboard
- tissue paper, paper towels
- frozen juice cans, powdered drink containers
- pet food bags
- shredded paper (or take to a Recycling Depot)
- disposable coffee/drink cups

### Plastic

- styrofoam
- chip bags, cellophane, food wrap, dirty plastic, candy wrappers
- bubble wrap, strapping, string
- dishes and cutlery
- toys, wading pools
- toothpaste tubes
- garden hoses

### Yard Waste

- grass, leaves, brush, garden waste

### Other

- shoes, cassettes, cds, records
- floor sweepings, sawdust, vacuum cleaner bags (double bag)
- pet feces/kitty litter (double bag)
- ashes (double bag)



## RECYCLING

Include **ONLY** the items listed here in your blue bag, blue bin or at Recycling Depots.

### Glass\*

- jars (pickle, jam)
- bottles (beverage, ketchup)

### Metal\*

- cans (food, beverage, soup)
- aluminum cans, trays and pie plates
- empty non-hazardous aerosol cans



### Paper and cardboard

- newsprint, flyers, envelopes
- writing and computer paper (not shredded)
- paper egg cartons, paper bags
- magazines and paperback books
- gift wrap (non-metallic)
- phone books
- cardboard boxes (flatten and remove liners)
- milk cartons, juice boxes



### Plastic\*

- household bottles and containers (vinegar, shampoo, detergent, pop/water, milk, yogurt, margarine, windshield washer etc.)
- grocery, retail, bread and dry cleaning bags (stuff into one bag and tie closed)



### Used clothing/fabric

- accepted at select Recycling Depots

\* *Must be empty, clean and dry. Discard caps and lids. Labels are OK.*



## ECO STATION

Take household hazardous waste and large items to an Eco Station. Don't put these items in your blue bag or blue bin, or garbage.

### Small appliances and scrap metal

- anything with a battery or cord (computers, TVs, toasters, etc.)
- BBQs, lawnmowers, tools, etc.

### Automotive

- all fluids (e.g. oil, antifreeze, gas, diesel) and empty containers
- oil filters, tires, car batteries and car parts

### Construction scrap

- lumber, windows, shingles, insulation, drywall, concrete, etc.

### Corrosive/poisonous cleaners

- bleach, drain, toilet and oven cleaners, etc.

### Large bulky items

- mattresses, sofas, fridges, stoves, etc.

### Lawn and garden

- herbicides, pesticides, fertilizer

### Lighting

- fluorescent tubes/ballasts, compact fluorescents, all other bulbs and fixtures

### Loose waste

- soil, gravel, tree roots, stumps, etc.

### Paint/stains

- paint/stain (empty or full cans, including aerosols)
- thinners, turpentine, varnishes, paint remover

### Other

- aerosol cans (partially full)
- batteries (any kind)
- caulking, cement powder
- fire extinguishers, propane bottles or tanks
- syringes (put in a plastic bottle)
- photo chemicals, glues



# Tired of dragging your *grass*?

## QUICK QUIZ: When mowing your lawn, would you rather:

- A. Push your mower, stop every few minutes to bag your clippings and drag bag after bag to the curb?
- B. Push your mower, stop, and grab a tall cool drink for a date with your backyard lounge?

If B sounds too decadent for you, think again! Not only does it make your summertime livin' easy, but it's also better for your lawn. That's because leaving your grass clippings on your lawn — called grasscycling — lets them decompose, returning nutrients to the soil.

Gardening show radio host Stan Thomson says grasscycling is a natural way to fertilize a lawn.

"The grass clippings release nitrogen. They also keep the lawn cool and help your lawn retain moisture."

"I had neighbours tell me I was nuts," says Edmontonian Heike Kohl, an avid grasscycler. "Yet every year they ask me why my lawn is so green."

"I save money on chemicals and bags and it reduces my greenhouse gas emissions by over half a tonne a year," adds Kohl.

More people are grasscycling. A recent survey done by the City's Waste Management Branch found that 36 per cent of Edmonton households are grasscycling every time they mow, or most of the time.

## How to grasscycle:

- Use any mower.
- Leave clippings on the lawn.
- Mow often, about every 4-5 days during the peak growing season.
- Keep blade sharp and at a height of 2.5 to 3 inches.
- Mow only when grass is dry.



## Edmonton Waste Management Centre

Edmonton's residential waste goes to the Edmonton Waste Management Centre for sorting and processing. You can also go there to dispose of waste not suitable for curbside collection.

13111 Meridian Street NE (1st Street)

### Hours

Mon to Fri - 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sat, Sun and Holidays - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
CLOSED Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day

### Household Refuse Rate

\$58 per tonne based on weight of load. Most loads are charged the minimum charge of \$17.

NOTE: Rates may change January 1. Visit us at [edmonton.ca/waste](http://edmonton.ca/waste) or call 311 for our most current rates.

All loads must be secured and loose material must be covered by tarpaulin or other device (Traffic Bylaw #5590)

### Tours

We offer free tours for community groups of 10 or more.  
Call 780-496-6879 to book.



For more information call 311  
or visit [www.edmonton.ca/waste](http://www.edmonton.ca/waste).



Using paper with post-consumer fibre helped reduce the ecological footprint equivalent of 182 trees.