

A Guide to No Garbage



by Roger W. Smeeth

In Victoria we can recycle almost everything.

I know this because, for each year since 1999, I have contributed only one paper bag of non-recyclables to the land fill.



It has been suggested that others might be interested in the routine I developed. What you will read here works well for me, but it may need some adaptation to work well for you. Once I streamlined my system, it now takes no more than

2 minutes a day.

VICTORIA RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION

- Non-recyclables - meat scraps & chicken stock remains (sealed in plastic bag), collected bacon fat, worn out running shoes, butcher paper, etc.



Some **BOTTOM** Lines

What's the single most effective way of reducing garbage? 45% of landfill consists of packaging. I try to be aware of what is not necessary to bring home with my selected purchases.

***TIP:** My cloth shopping bag contains my repeatedly used plastic bags for vegetables and bulk foods.*

We all pay for garbage collection, whether we need it or not. Let's hope that with all of us working toward the "No Garbage" goal, we can reduce our costs and reduce our landfills.

More info?
www.southjubilee.ca

About the author: Roger Smeeth is a South Jubilee resident and the driving force behind the neighbourhood's plastic recycling program. The program he began has become the model for neighbourhood plastic recycling in other communities in Victoria.

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Bullet points under each destination indicate a discrete category, collected separately.

BLUE BOX (CRD)

Curb Pick-up, 360-3030

- Glass bottles & jars - remove lids
- Cans, lids & bottle caps - remove labels & flatten
- Mixed paper - includes newspaper (excludes white bond paper/envelopes)
- Corrugated cardboard - tie in bundles



TIP: Since much recyclable material is connected with the kitchen, keep collection containers close by. Although this might require some adaptation of storage facilities, it's better than a trip to the basement or garage.

As the CRD limits the kinds of plastic accepted, I suggest you choose the following option which accepts virtually all varieties of plastic for remanufacture.

PACIFIC MOBILE DEPOTS

Saturday Neighbourhood Plastic Collections

(A financial donation is requested; 20% is returned to your neighbourhood association.)

- Soft plastic - film & chip bags, cereal liners, etc.
- Metallic plastic bags, coffee bags, etc.
- Rigid plastic - mixed - remove metal parts
- Block white Styrofoam
- Foam meat trays & cups
- Foam packing peanuts
- Polystyrene foam
- Deposit bottles & tetra packs
- Milk, soy & soup tetra packs
- Electronic equipment
- Carpet underlay

Note: Soft vinyl like shower curtains, kiddie pools & urethane foam are not accepted.

See www.pacificmobiledepots.com for locations and times.

ELLICE RECYCLE (small fee)

525 David Street, 386-4342

- White bond paper/envelopes - remove 'windows'
- Broken glass
- Paint & spray bomb cans
- Drywall

BUDGET STEEL

2770 Pleasant Street, 381-5865

- Scrap steel of all forms
- Alum* foil & pie plates - compacted
- Alum scrap & caps - remove liners

* Alum is non-magnetic; test with fridge magnet. Bottle caps are steel.

BATTERY DIRECT

2141 Government Street, 361-3616

(also Hartland site)

- Alkaline batteries - \$2.50/lb.
- Lithium batteries - \$7.50/lb.

CAPITAL IRON

1900 Store Street, 385-9703

- Fluorescent bulbs (not tubes)

SALVATION ARMY

525 Johnson Street, 384-3396

(& other locations)

- Rag material - in bag marked "Baling"



TIP: It's helpful to have individual containers, of appropriate size, for some categories. I use 3 litre olive oil cans in a deep drawer.

VICTORIA PUBLIC WORKS

417 Garbally Road, 361-0400

- Garden waste - Saturdays, 7am - 1pm

VICTORIA COMPOST EDUCATION

1216 North Park Street, 386-9676

- Learn to compost kitchen & garden waste
- Bones can be dried & burnt in fireplace or stove