



Recycling, Composting and Waste Management at the St. George

Special Newsletter – February 2022

Our condominium is a living community in which we live in proximity to one another and share common amenities. Being considerate and respectful for one another can make our life happier and our environment a better place to live in.

One of the perks of condo living is that regular maintenance and upkeep of the whole complex is taken care of by the Management Company with direction from the Board of Directors. As part of this, a complete recycling and waste management system has been put in place for your convenience, albeit with certain rules and guidelines. These rules and regulations are outlined in the Resident's Handbook (section 12) and in the Welcome Booklet. It is our individual responsibility to be familiar with these two important documents and as a good neighbour abide by the rules found therein.

The purpose of this special newsletter is to share with you several changes and additions to the recycling and waste management efforts that have been put in place at the St. George over the last few years and also to remind you what should go into each bin.

We are pleased to note that many residents are already engaged in this recycling effort and use of the green bin, but we can do better! There is still too much mixed recycling, plastic bags and unflattened boxes that hinder our efforts, so please carefully review this newsletter.

Proper recycling, composting and waste management:

Helps keep our living space clean

- Disposing of organic waste in the bins and not down the garbage chute keeps the chute cleaner and reduces undesirable smells.
- Properly disposing of recyclable material keeps our physical environment tidier and accessible to those of us who cannot use the outside bins.
- Our cleaner has more time to clean our building instead of spending time dealing with unsorted recyclables and transferring items to the outside bins.

Helps keep our environment clean

- Compostable material gets transformed as fertilizer instead of rotting away in the landfill and creating greenhouse gases.
- Paper, metal and glass recycling reduces pressure on natural resources (trees, mining, sand, etc.).
- Proper disposal of hazardous waste keeps it out of our landfills and out of our ground water.

Helps reduce costs

- Recycling and composting programs are paid for by our City taxes, whether we use the services or not.
- We pay for garbage removal and maintenance of the chute, bins and compactor: By reducing their use, we extend their life and save money.

Prepares us for future municipal and provincial requirements

- Some Canadian municipalities have or are considering implementing fees if recyclable or compostable material are found in landfill waste;
- By staying ahead of the curve on this we will be ready when the City implements similar charges

The garbage chute on each floor should only be used for the small amount of waste that cannot be processed through the recycling, composting and special waste programs available at the St George. To minimize landfill waste, we strongly encourage residents, tenants, staff but also your contractors to make use of the following facilities and services.

RECYCLING

Two large bins located on the loading dock are at your disposal for your paper (yellow bin) and glass/metal/plastics (grey bin) recycling needs. All items should be **properly sorted, flattened, and compacted**.

The blue (paper) and black (glass/metal/plastic) recycle bins found in the building's recycling room are intended for those unable to use the large bins outside.

The recycling streams are only effective when items are **properly sorted**. Please **do not** mix paper, plastics and non-recyclable in the bins, since the automatic processing equipment is not always able to sort it and mixed recyclables cannot be properly recycled.

COMPOSTING

Since 2017, the St. George has had a successful green bin program. However, given the size of the building, the bins are still somewhat under-utilized, so we urge you to be more mindful of what can go in the green bin and make use of them.

Four large green bins can be found in the loading bay. For your convenience, a single bin is available near the north exit of the recycling room whereas the other three are behind the big yellow bin.

For pet owners, the City now accepts all **bagged** pet litter and waste in the green bins.

A small free food scrap kitchen bin is available on demand if you haven't received one yet; please contact security to get yours.

NEW BINS IN THE PARKING GARAGE!

Every level of the parking garage will soon have blue, black and green bins! For years, commonly recyclable items were being thrown away in the garbage bins in the garage. No more! Throw your newspapers and boxes in the black bin, your windshield washer jugs and plastic water bottle in the blue bin and your compostable items in the green bin.

Do not dispose of your kitchen waste in these green bins. They are intended for compostable but **non-smelly** waste that you bring in from your car such as food soiled bags or pizza boxes, napkins, waxed paper cups, paper coffee cups, dry food, etc.

SPECIAL RECYCLING AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

For a few years now, the St George has also been helping residents by collecting other various items that should be diverted away from the landfill. These are returned to participating Take it Back! (City of Ottawa program) locations by resident volunteers for your convenience:

- Batteries
- CFL and fluorescent bulbs (**not** halogen bulbs, they go in regular garbage)
- **Small** Electronics
- Printer toner and ink cartridges
- **Small** hazardous waste containers

Please use this service, and if you would like to volunteer for returning some of these items, please contact us.

There is also a dedicated bin for empty **beer cans and wine or liquor bottles**. These are returned to The Beer Store and the money generated goes back to our cleaning and security staff.

Larger broken electronics can also be stored at the St George and periodically picked up for recycling. Please dispose of your electronics appropriately or contact the security desk to leave it with us.

REUSABLE ITEMS

If you have items that you are getting rid of but that are still functional, please leave them in the recycling room with a green tag or a note. This lets others know that the item is still functional, and residents are free to pick it up for themselves. In addition, if nobody in the building claims the item but we know that it is still working, it can be donated to a local charitable organization. There is a new dedicated **clothes bin** and area to put other items you are getting rid of.

If you have items that were removed during a renovation, or extras (e.g., tiles), please consider donating them to the Habitat for Humanity (www.habitatgo.com) or a similar organisation.

We want your input!

We are always looking for help and comments on how to make things better so we would like your feedback and participation.

Please contact Ken Lagarec (#1602, klagarec@gmail.com) or Marie Loyer (#1403, mloyer10811@gmail.com) about information regarding recycling or if you are interested in joining the Recycling committee.

For day to day issues regarding waste management, please contact our Reid Management property managers (Mike Fraser, mfraser@reidmanagement.com and Dane Orieux, dorieux@reidmanagement.com).

For reference, next you will find a "What goes in ..." refresher from the City of Ottawa, clarifying how you should sort and manage your waste and recycling.



When in doubt, please refer to the City of Ottawa Waste Explorer <https://ottawa.ca/en/garbage-and-recycling/waste-explorer>

WHAT GOES IN THE BLUE OR GREY BINS?



- To maximize the capacity of our grey bin, please collapse your containers (milk cartons, water bottles, etc.) before putting them in the bin.
- All recyclables must be placed **loose** in the blue or grey bins to help with sorting at the recycling facility.
- Plastic bags should **not** be used to package recyclables. They cannot be opened by the automated sorting process at the recycling facility and the plastic bags get caught in the equipment.
- Clear/blue/biodegradable plastic bags are **not** accepted. Clean plastic grocery bags should be reused or brought to a Take it Back! partner.

BLUE BIN RECYCLABLES

GLASS

- Empty bottles and jars

METAL

- Metal cans
- Soft drink cans
- Jar lids
- Aluminum containers (clean or food soiled)
- Aluminum foil (clean or food soiled)
- **Empty** paint cans with lids removed
- **Empty** aerosol cans (hairspray, paint, whipping cream)
- Spiral-wound canisters with metal ends (frozen concentrate cans, potato chip tube)

PLASTIC

- Food and household **containers** numbers 1 to 7
 - **Please note:** Rigid #6 plastics such as yogurt cups and clear plastics are accepted, while expanded #6 such as Styrofoam are not accepted.
- Take-out containers, bakery and produce containers (clam shells)
- Pails (remove metal handle)
- Planting trays
- Flower pots
- Single serve yogurt cups
- Clear plastic egg cartons
- Plastic bottles, jars and jugs
- Tubs and tub lids (yogurt, ice cream, margarine containers)

CARTONS

- Milk and juice cartons
- Drink boxes
- Soup boxes
- Frozen meal trays and take-out containers

WHAT GOES IN THE BLACK OR YELLOW BIN?



- To maximize the capacity of the yellow bin, please flatten boxes.
- Paper and cardboard must be clean.

WHAT CAN I PUT IN MY BLACK BIN?

- Newspaper and flyers
- Magazines and catalogues
- Corrugated cardboard
- Telephone books
- Cereal and cracker boxes (remove plastic liners)
- Shoe and laundry detergent boxes
- Writing and computer paper, paper pads
- Hard and soft cover books
- Paper egg cartons, toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls
- Gift wrapping paper and greeting cards
- Clean paper shopping bags or paper packaging
- Frozen dinner boxes
- Clean pizza boxes

WHAT GOES IN YOUR GREEN BIN?



Organics recycling is an important part of the City of Ottawa's long term Waste Strategy. Diverting residential organic waste away from landfill saves the City millions of dollars and reduces the need for additional landfill sites. It also helps fight climate change.

FOOD WASTE OR SCRAPS

- Baking ingredients, herbs and spices
- Bread, cereals, crackers and grains
- Candy and gum
- Chips, popcorn and nuts
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Cookies, cakes, muffins and pastries
- Dairy products (cheese, sour cream)
- Dough
- Eggs and egg shells
- Fruits and vegetables
- Jams, jellies, marmalades or chutney
- Leftover cooking oils, lard, shortening, fat, butter and margarine
- Meat, fish, shellfish, poultry, bones and scraps
- Nuts and shells
- Pasta, beans, rice and couscous
- Peanut butter

- Pet food
- Pits (all types)
- Salad dressing, mayonnaise, vinegar, sauces, marinades, dips and gravy
- Seeds
- Tea and tea bags

YARD WASTE

- Branches, twigs and hedge trimmings
- Leaves
- Plants and weeds
- Grass clippings

OTHER ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Animal bedding (e.g. bird and hamster cages)
- Butcher's meat wrap
- Cotton balls
- Dog feces (must be contained in a sealed, leak-proof bag)
- Dryer lint
- Floor sweepings, vacuum bags and vacuum contents
- Food-soiled paper towels, napkins and tissues
- Food-soiled pizza boxes only (clean pizza boxes should go in the black bin)
- Household plants, including soil
- Kitty litter (soiled)
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Paper coffee cups, plates and muffin wrappers
- Pet fur, hair and feathers
- Soiled paper, boxboard and cardboard
- Sugar, flour and potato paper bags
- Waxed paper
- Wooden popsicle sticks and toothpicks

WASTE FOR THE LANDFILL ☹️

Unfortunately, some things aren't recyclable and should be placed in your regular garbage. Large items can be put directly in the garbage bin in the south end of the loading bay, while small bags should be put down the chute located on each floor.

GLASS

- Ceramics such as dishes, cups and pottery
- Other glass such as drinking glasses, window glass, light bulbs, and mirrors

METAL

- Metal clothes hangers
- Scrap metal
- Chip bags

PLASTIC

- #6 expanded polystyrene (such as **styrofoam** containers and packaging, coffee cup lids, meat trays and foam clam shells)
- All plastic bags
- Hard plastics such as dishes, cups, toys, make-up jars, laundry baskets
- Motor oil containers

⚠️ NOT ALLOWED IN THE GREEN BIN

- Diapers and sanitary products
- Cereal and cracker box **liners**, chip and cookie bags and canisters
- Chocolate bar and candy wrappings
- Wooden clementine and orange crates
- Foil wrapping paper, bows, ribbons
- Paper and cardboard **lined with foil**

Ottawa
Think outside the bag!
Il n'y a pas que le sac – pensez-y!

More than 75 per cent of your household's waste can easily be diverted from the landfill by making sure these items end up where they belong:

On peut facilement détourner de nos sites d'enfouissement plus de 75 % de nos déchets ménagers en nous assurant de les placer au bon endroit :

- Magazines
- Cardboard boxes
- Pizza boxes
- Flyers
- Magazines
- Boîtes en carton
- Boîtes de pizza
- Circulaires

- Plastic bottles, jars and food tubs
- Metal/aluminum food and beverage cans and trays
- Drink and soup boxes
- Bouteilles, bocaux et contenants en plastique
- Boîtes et plateaux alimentaires en métal/aluminium
- Boîtes de boisson et de soupe

- Food scraps
- Tissues, napkins, paper towels
- Food soiled paper packaging
- Restes de table
- Mouchoirs, essuie-tout, serviettes en papier
- Emballages alimentaires en papier souillés

Visit ottawa.ca/greenbin for a full list of acceptable items.

Pour une liste complète d'articles acceptés, veuillez visiter ottawa.ca/bacvert.

75%

25%

Visit ottawa.ca/wasteexplorer
 Veuillez visiter ottawa.ca/navigateurdedechets

Newsletter produced by the Recycling Committee of CCC375.
 Please contact Ken Lagarec (klagarec@gmail.com) for more information.