



Clear Garbage Bag Program Question and Answers

Garbage FAQs

Q. Why is Havelock-Belmont-Methuen making the change from dark bags to clear?

A. The Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen participates in waste audits to examine the composition of garbage. The audits help us to continue to improve our waste management practices. Recent audits have determined high volumes of hazardous and recyclable materials in the garbage bags. Dark or opaque bags make it very difficult to enforce proper recycling or for collectors to be sure they are picking up safe material.

Clear bags help our collectors identify materials that are banned from the garbage disposal/stream. Clear bags also protect collectors from any glass, knives, medical supplies or any other sharp items in the dark bag.

Transfer Stations and Waste Sites have limited life spans. Currently the Peterborough County-City Waste Management Facility on Bensfort Road has a lifespan of 15 years. Replacing Waste Sites and Facilities such as this exceed a cost of 10 million and will take nearly a decade to establish. It is in our best interest financially and land use, to extend the life of the landfill as much as possible.

By making the switch to clear bags, the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen will be working to reduce overall garbage footprint, extend the life of our Transfer Station and waste sites, as well as minimize any long-term costs.

Q. What is the Clear Bag Program?

A. The Clear Bag Program for the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen will commence January 1, 2021.

A small opaque bag (the size of a grocery bag) may be placed inside the clear bag to conceal private material, or you can place your clear bag inside a garbage can to conceal your garbage until the collector arrives.

If you only produce as much garbage as would fit your privacy bag, the privacy bag can be left at the curb for collection or dropped off at the Transfer Station without placing it inside of a clear bag.

Opaque bags will not be collected at the curb or accepted at the 6th Line Transfer Station, Jack Lake Transfer Station, West Kosh Transfer Station, or Oak Lake Transfer Station effective January 1, 2021.

Q. How do I set my garbage out for collection?

- Garbage may be set out for collection in the following ways:
 - Place a clear bag (30lbs or less) in a garbage can.
 - One (1) privacy bag can be included in your clear bag.
 - In a clear bag (30lbs or less)
 - One (1) privacy bag can be included in your clear bag.





- In a privacy bag: a privacy bag is a small grocery sized bag which may be opaque (non-see through to shield private items



Garbage bag limits continue to apply: a maximum of 1 bag can be picked up at the curb each week. A garbage tag must be adhered to the bag. Garbage tags can be purchased for \$6 for a slip of 5, from the Township Office, Havelock Foodland, the East End Market or any Transfer Station. Each bag must weigh 30lbs or less. Garbage can be brought to any Transfer Station nearest to you (fees apply).

Q. What about my privacy?

A. To conceal private material one (1) small opaque bag, such as a grocery bag OR kitchen catcher, may be used and placed inside your clear bag. You can also place your clear bag inside a garbage can.

The privacy bag is meant to conceal items you wish to remain obscured from public view. Garbage such as diapers, used tissues, or cat litter do not need to be placed in the privacy bag, they can be placed in the clear bag with other garbage.

Confidential documents should not be placed in the privacy bag; please shred confidential documents and place the shredded material in a bag in your fibres Blue box for collection. If you don't have a shredder, watch for special shredding events on the Havelock-Belmont-Methuen website.

Q. Will someone be looking through my garbage each week?

A. Collectors will gauge whether a bag conforms to the By-law regarding recycling, and hazardous waste based on what can be seen through the clear bag. Collectors will not be opening and going through your garbage bags.

Q. Do other communities use clear garbage bags?

A. Yes. Communities all across Canada and the U.S.A have implemented clear garbage bag programs. As of 2015, over a half million Canadian households participated in a clear bag collection program. More local examples of communities with clear bag collection programs include The City of Peterborough, Asphodel-Norwood, Cavan Monaghan and many others within the County of Peterborough.

Q. I use opaque bags under my sink and throughout my home (i.e. grocery bags or white kitchen catchers), can I tie them up and throw them into my clear bag?

A. A single small grocery bag or a single white kitchen catcher is permitted within your clear bag to serve as a privacy bag. Waste bin contents from around the house can be dumped into larger clear bags or use clear kitchen catcher bags through-out your home; clear kitchen catchers should be available at local retailers. Multiple opaque privacy bags inside the clear bag will not be accepted.

Q. Do clear bags cost more and where can I buy clear garbage bags?

A. Clear garbage bags generally cost the same as dark bags of the same size and style. Many retailers in Havelock, Campbellford, Norwood and Peterborough already carry clear garbage bags in a variety of sizes.

Q. What happens if I don't use clear bags after July 1, 2021?

A. Opaque bags are no longer collected at the curb or accepted at any Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Transfer Stations.



Q. What can I do with any extra dark bags I have left over?

A. Peterborough County residents are permitted to use the Peterborough County/City Waste Management Facility located at 1260 Bensfort Road; this waste facility currently accepts black bags. For information on the Peterborough County/City Waste Management Facility and tipping fees visit www.peterborough.ca/Living/Waste_Management/Landfill/Facility.htm

Opaque bags can be used to transport clothing or other donations to charity organizations, or the bags themselves can be donated.

Q. Does renovation material get picked up with the garbage?

A. Renovation materials are not be collected at the curb; some materials, such as insulation and vapour barrier, may be brought to the 6 Line Transfer Station.

Q. How should I dispose of objects with sharp edges?

A. Any object with sharp edges must be labeled "broken glass/sharp object" and wrapped in cardboard or placed in a protective container to cover any exposed or sharp edges so that it is safe to handle.

Medical sharps must be disposed of in appropriate containers and delivered to participating pharmacies. Contact your pharmacy for details.

Q. What are we going to do with garbage or compost that is dumped in the ditches?

A. This is called illegal dumping and is a serious offence with penalties. Information that can be safely obtained, such as the license plate number of the vehicle involved and the location of the dumping is valuable, but do not pick up or go through dumped garbage. Please contact the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Municipal Office at (705) 778 2308 to report illegal dumping.

Q. Am I allowed to burn my garbage?

A. No. Burning of Prohibited Material, such as garbage, compost, or recyclables is banned by our Open-Air Burning By-Law. Only clean, dry wood or wood by-products are allowed to be burned. Painted, pressure treated, or glued wood products are not considered clean and are prohibited. Information on burning in the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen can be found in By-law No. 2017 – 075.

Q. What can go into the garbage?

A. Even with excellent recycling, composting, and removal of hazardous materials, there are still items that for one reason or another cannot be diverted out of the garbage at this time; some of these items include:

<p>Garbage from the washroom/ hygiene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adsorbent pads (diapers, incontinence products) • Artificial eyelashes • Artificial nails • Bandages (Band-Aids) and other first aid material • Blister packs • Cotton balls • Cotton swab (Q-Tips) • Dental floss • Disposable razors • Feminine hygiene products
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair and nail clippings • Hair elastics and clips • Hand cream or make-up tubes (empty) • Make-up application or removal pads or tissues • Medical items (sharps need to be disposed of in an approved sharps container and be dropped off at a pharmacy) • Paper towels • Single use products or sample packaging in laminated or foil packaging • Soiled paper products • Sponges and loofahs • Tissues (Kleenex) • Toilet brush • Toothbrushes • Toothpaste tubes (empty)
<p>Garbage from the kitchen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adsorbent pads (meat tray pads) • Broken glass/ceramic/Pyrex/knives/plates/bowls (these items must be placed in a container or box and obviously marked as “Sharp”) • Butcher paper (meat wrapping paper) • Butter wrapper • Candy wrappers • Cellophane plastic wrap (such as straw wrappers and other non-stretchy food bags) • Cereal bags • Cheese wrapping (including plastic wrap for sliced cheese, bar cheese, and cheese snacks) • Chip bags • Clementine/mandarin boxes • Coffee bags • Coffee cup lids • Coffee pods (including those marked as recyclable are currently garbage) • Cookie bags • Cracker bags • Cutlery (plastic) • Flexible packaging (such as Kool-Aid Jammers) • Freshness bags that contain tea bags (the tea bag itself is compostable) • Freshness seal on yogurt cups and containers • Frozen entrée dinner boxes • Gum wrappers • Kabob and chop-sticks • Mesh fruit and vegetable bags/covers • Paper products that are soiled or greasy (muffin cups, paper out of bacon packaging, grease brown bags, popcorn bags) • Paper towels and napkins (cardboard roll is recyclable) • Parchment paper (cardboard roll is recyclable) • Rags, sponges, scouring pads • Ready-made food packs (soup, rice, potato, seasonings, pasta)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single serve breakfast bags • Single serve creamer/milk/butter packs • Single serve hot chocolate packs • Single serve soup bags • Slider, locking storage bags (Zip-lock) • Soiled paper products Straws • Stretch cling wrap (Saran wrap, meat wrap) • Styrofoam of any kind which includes Styrofoam food trays and containers, plates, bowls, cups, egg cartons, clam shell food containers • Water filters • Wax paper (cardboard roll is recyclable)
<p>Garbage from the office/business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binders • Bubble wrap • Corrugated plastic • Label/sticker backing sheets (this is the sheet of paper that labels are affixed to until they are used, also called a release liner, carrier, glassine) • Nylon strapping • Padded envelopes (an envelope with a bubble liner, also called a bubble envelope or bubble mailer) • Pens and markers • Spent staples or paper clips • Styrofoam of any kind which includes Styrofoam packing peanuts and packing sheets • Tape
<p>Garbage from the home inside and out</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art paint tubes (empty) • Balloons • Broken glass/ceramic/Pyrex/knives/plates/bowls/incandescent light bulbs (these items must be placed in a container or box and obviously marked as “Sharp”) • Bulky plastic (also called durable plastic) such as toys, buckets, laundry hampers, lawn furniture* • Caulking and silicon tubes (empty) • Cleaning wipes (such as Lysol or Armor-All wipes) • Clothes line • Corrugated plastic (such as election signs) • Elastics • Furnace filters • Hose and tubing • Mop heads • Paint brushes • Paint rollers • Plastic cards (such as gift cards) • Rags • Rope and string • Sealant tubes – empty (such as caulking, silicon, adhesive tubes) • Steel wool • Styrofoam of any kind including small amounts of dried spray foam • Vacuum bags



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vapour barrier • Water filters
Garbage from the farm/pets/livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bale wrap* • Baler twine (binder twine) • Broken equipment such as collars, halters, leads, leashes, etc... • Hair, fur and nail clippings • Kitty litter (all litter types are garbage) • Livestock feed bags • Net wrap* • Pet food bags • Pet treat bags • Pet waste (loose or inside "poop bags") • Silage bags and silage wrap* • Styrofoam of any kind • Wormer tubes (empty)
Miscellaneous garbage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashes, charcoal (cooled) • Boat wrap* • Cards or paper with sparkles • Cellophane bags • Florist plastic wrap for cut flowers • Cigarette butts (cold) • Clothes pins • Disposable lighters (empty) • Broken knick-knacks • Metal or rope handles from gift bags • Metallic gift wrap • Milk tabs and other small pieces of garbage such as twist ties, clothing tags, plastic sticky notes (Post-It Notes), tamper evidence tabs and rings from drink cartons • Moldy or soiled clothing • Nylon plastic cable tie (Zip-ties) • Photographs • Ribbons and bows • Worn out footwear

*There are programs in place outside of the Blue Box Program to recycle these items.

This list is not exhaustive. If you aren't sure where items should be disposed of, contact the Township office or consult the Searchable Waste Portal available at www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling



Recycling FAQs

Q. What goes in my Blue box?

A. If you are unsure about what is accepted in Blue boxes in the County of Peterborough, please visit www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling and use the Searchable Waste Portal. You can pick up literature from the Municipal Office, or you can call us at (705) 778 2308.

Q. Can shredded paper be included in my Blue box?

A. Shredded paper goes into recycling with other fibre recyclables, please bag shredded paper and place it in your fibre Blue box.

Q. Do I put my other recyclables in plastic bags?

A. No, other recyclables (such as plastic, metal, and glass containers) should be loose in your Blue Box. Film plastic (such as grocery or mattress bags) can be stuffed into a bag, which is then tied shut to keep film plastic separate from paper in the fibre Blue box.

Q. How do I recycle my electronics and batteries?

A. Unwanted electronics and batteries are not accepted at the curb for disposal. Electronics can be dropped off free of charge at the 6 Line Transfer Station. Used electronics in good, working condition may be donated to charity organizations, check with the organization to confirm that they accept electronic donations.

Batteries are collected free of charge at the following locations in the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen:

- 6 Line Transfer Station
 - 900 6 line
- Jack Lake Transfer Station
- Oak Lake Transfer Station
- West Kosh Transfer Station
- Township Office
 - 1 Ottawa Street East

Q. Where do I get a Blue Box?

Blue Boxes can be purchased for \$6.00 (tax included) from:

- The Township Office
 - 1 Ottawa Street East, Havelock
 - Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- The County of Peterborough at the County Public Works Office
 - 310 Armour Road, Peterborough
 - Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please contact the Municipal Office to ensure Blue Boxes are in stock.



Blue boxes do not need to be from the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen or Peterborough County to be used, they may be purchased from other jurisdictions or retail stores.

Q. My Blue Box is damaged. Can it be replaced?

A. Broken or damaged Blue Boxes can be exchanged free of charge at the Municipal Office or at the County Public Works Office in Peterborough. Bring your damaged Blue box in to exchange it; exchanges are only for Blue Boxes originally from the Municipal Office or the County Public Works Office.

Q. Why isn't my recycling always picked up?

A. Recycling needs to be sorted and packaged so that the collectors are able to deal with it safely and efficiently. Recycling must be placed loose in recycling Blue boxes – do not put it in bags (except for film plastic) or a receptacle that is not a blue box.

Recycling needs to be sorted into two bins: one bin for containers (glass, plastic, metal, Tetra-packs, etc...) and one bin for fibres (paper and film plastic). Bins that are not sorted properly will not be picked up. Collectors will not sort bins.

Some of the recycling trucks have limited openings that can be used by the collectors, the openings are approximately the size of a Blue box. Material such as cardboard that is not broken down (to 30 x 30 x 8 inches) will not be collected.





Compost FAQs

Q. Why isn't the Township introducing a compost collection?

A. At this time, compost collection is cost-prohibitive; curbside compost collection is very costly to implement, especially in a Township where the population is spread out over a large area, as is the case in Havelock-Belmont-Methuen.

Q. How do I dispose of compostable material?

A. Residents have a few choices to dispose of compostable material: you can purchase or build a composter on your property, you can purchase or build a digester on your property, or you can drop compostable material off at the Molok bins at the 6 Line Transfer Station.

Q. What do I do with bones/meat/oil that aren't usually part of a composting program?

A. These items can be placed in home digesters or in the Moloks at the 6 Line Transfer Station.

While a home digester needs to have some upfront work done to prepare a site, a digester requires less maintenance work than a composter, can accept a greater diversity of kitchen scraps, and generally offers years of service before any more maintenance work is required.

Q. Where do I get a composter or digester?

A. A limited number of composters are available at the Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Municipal Office.

Digesters are available at the County of Peterborough Public Works Office.

Composters also make great do-it-yourself projects. Composters can be made very simply or as elaborately as desired, a search using "homemade composting bins" on Google offers many great ideas.

Q. Where should I put a composter or home digester?

A. Composters and digesters should be placed in a location that is easy to access year-round, especially if you intend to harvest the finished product out of a composter.

Composters should be located in a well-drained, sunny area. Access to a water source to moisten material if it gets too dry would be advisable.



Digesters can create a small amount of leachate, so they should be kept away from wells and lakeshores; they should also be kept away from septic beds, ponds, and wet areas since these water sources can disrupt the break down process by keeping material too wet. Digesters should be kept away from buried lines and cables to avoid accidental contact when digging. Digesters should be placed in an area that is in as much direct sunlight as possible.

Q. Can I use compostable/biodegradable plastic bags to line a kitchen bin then dispose of the bagged compost in the Moloks?

A. No, plastic bags of any kind (even those marketed as “biodegradable” or “compostable”) may NOT be put in the Molok bins as they cause significant disruption and slowing of the composting process. If you use plastic to transport compostable material, please dump the compostable material in the Moloks and then place the plastic bag in the garbage. Paper bags or a newsprint liner are alternatives that can be used and thrown into the Molok bins with the compost.

Q. How do I dispose of pet waste?

A. Pet waste and kitty litter should be placed in your clear garbage bag. The waste can either be put in the bag loose or placed in smaller, pet waste bags (“poop bags”) or litter pan liners. Please do not place pet waste in a home composter or digester.



Other FAQs

Q. Are there programs available for disposing of__?

A. Yes, there are a multitude of programs available that help further divert unwanted items out of the garbage, the following is a limited list of programs we are currently aware of, please contact the program organizer for details.

- **Unwanted items: clothing, fabrics, household items in good condition** can be donated to a number of charities; however not all charities accept clothing or fabric that is damaged. Value Village will accept clothing and fabric that is no longer wanted due to rips, worn patches, or stains (moldy or soiled clothing should be washed and dried before donating). A more complete list of items that Value Village accepts can be found at www.valuevillage.com/donate/what-we-take. Many animal shelters accept donations of used blankets, linens, towels, and pet/livestock equipment; please call your local shelter to determine what items they will accept.
- **Medical sharps and needles** must be disposed of in approved containers from a pharmacy. Contact your pharmacy for details.
- **Scrap metal** can be brought to the 6th Line Transfer Station Metal bin or dropped off at any of the private roadside scrap metal bins that are available throughout the Township.
- **Wood** can be brought to the 6th Line Transfer Station Wood bin.
- **Tires, empty propane tanks, and batteries** can be brought to the 6th Line Transfer Station.
- **Styrofoam** used in packaging (such as the shaped pieces that electronics are shipped in) should be dropped off at the **24-hr Recycling Depot at 400 Pido Road**.
- **Household Hazardous Waste** can be disposed of at the 6th Line Transfer Station during special events or be dropped off at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot at 400 Pido Road during business hours. Visit www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling for a list of seasonal Household Hazardous Waste events in Peterborough County.
- **Used motor oil** can be dropped off at the 6th Line Transfer Station year round; please do not mix other substances with the motor oil. Empty plastic oil containers must be placed in the special recycle bins adjacent the oil collection drum. Residents can also recycle other **empty automotive fluid containers** in this special recycling receptacle. Windshield washer fluid containers can be recycled in the normal Blue box. Please ask the attendant at the Transfer Station for direction.



Township of
HAVELOCK-BELMONT-METHUEN

www.hbmtwp.ca

INC. 1998

- **Books** in good condition can be donated to the Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Public Library collection. Books that are in poor condition can be recycled--remove the hard covers and recycle them separately.
- **Empty pesticide and seed bags and containers** may be eligible for return through **Clean FARMS**, www.cleanfarms.ca, please call 1-877-622-4460 ex 2227 for information. Drop off locations are available in Campbellford.
- **Bale wrap, silage bags, mulch film, greenhouse film, pallet stretch wrap, and boat wrap** are collected by **Switch Energy Corp.** Farmers, marinas and organizations that deal with this waste can contact Switch Energy to create an account to have these items collected. Minimum amounts and a nominal user fee apply. Contact Don Nott for details 1-519-524-0193, dnott@switchenergycorp.com or www.switchenergycorp.com.

This list is not exhaustive. If you know of other great ways to give used materials new life, please let us know!

You can visit us at the office Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The office is located at 1 Ottawa Street East, Havelock.

You can call us at (705) 778 2308 or email us at havbelmet@hbmtwp.ca