

Minor Changes to Your Curbside Recycling Program

By now, you've probably heard and read at least something about MMBC and changes to the recycling landscape across the province. Well, here's the short story from our end:



The BC Government wrote new provincial regulations that are meant to shift the cost of recycling PPP (packaging and printed paper) from you – the consumer – to the big companies who produce it. In response to this, the major PPP producers created MMBC – a non profit umbrella organization to contract with municipalities to ensure curbside recycling services, depot services, and transport of accepted materials back to large recycling facilities either start or continue on a local area basis.



Municipalities have had the choice to:

1. Opt out of the MMBC program and meet the new regulations on their own by collecting and then brokering their own deals with major recycling facilities and transporting their materials there;
2. Opt in partly - continue with their own curbside collection program but have MMBC deal with transporting the material to recycling facilities.
3. Opt in fully and have MMBC do everything;

We chose Option 2 because we already have a good program in place but didn't want to be responsible for the cost and administration of brokering deals and transporting material to other places in the province. Plus, MMBC gives us a cash incentive which we then apply to your annual fee (which was lowered this year). Also, Option 3 would have required us to surrender our bins to MMBC which we already own and there was no guarantee we could keep our collection service local, which is important to us.

It's important for you to know we are ahead of the curve in this. Most communities still deal with those little blue boxes – can't fit much in them, things blow out or get wet, and animals get at them. And many communities have never had curbside recycling.

What Stays the Same in Golden?

Your pickup schedule, and rules around keeping your bin lid fully closed, how it's placed, generally what goes in it, with some minor changes described below. Glass remains completely prohibited but can be taken to the big bins at the Bottle Depot as well as large cardboard items.

So What's Changed?

The only changes are what can or can't be put in your blue bin. Before we get to that, here's what is important to understand:

- It's MMBC and the large recycling facilities that decide what can be recycled, not us!
- MMBC can audit and fine us for prohibited materials found in what is sent to them. That can be as much as \$5,000 each time! If we get fined, we take it out of the incentive, and your rates start going back up. So please – put ONLY what is accepted in those blue bins!

Have a look again at the information placard on your blue bin lid. Here's the changes.

Now Accepted

Hot and cold paper beverage cups
Plastic lids
Plastic clamshells (for baked goods)
Microwaveable bowls and cups
Empty aerosol cans and caps
Empty plastic chemical containers
Spiral wound paper cans and lids
Cardboard (so long as it fits!)

Now Prohibited (Landfill only)

Paperback and hard cover books
Any type of plastic film, bags, and overwrap
(includes grocery bags, vegetable and bread bags, any kind of plastic wrappers, furniture overwrap, zip-lock bags, cellophane, cling wrap or film)
Any type of styrofoam
(includes meat trays, egg cartons, take-out containers, peanuts, packaging or insulation)

For more information check our website details at www.golden.ca and <http://recyclinginbc.ca/>