

Media Release

March 24, 2020

Keeping Garbage Collection Running Smoothly during COVID-19

As COVID-19 continues to disrupt services across the community it's important to keep garbage collection and waste management running smoothly. Garbage collection is considered an essential service and the RDCO Waste Reduction Office and its member municipalities are working to ensure the least amount of disruption to service over the coming weeks and months.

In order to reduce the strain on all waste management services residents are asked to note the following important reminders and changes:

Visiting the Landfill or Transfer Stations:

With more people at home, there is a noticeable increase in traffic at the landfill, transfer stations and recycling depots including:

- The Glenmore Landfill
- Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre on Asquith Road in West Kelowna
- Traders Cove Transfer Station
- North Westside Transfer Station
- Local recycling depots.

If possible, limit the number of trips you take to these facilities so they do not become overwhelmed and create a situation of crowding. It is important when visiting these facilities to ensure you are practicing proper physical distancing from those around you.

The Glenmore Landfill and the Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre on Asquith Road in West Kelowna will no longer be accepting cash payments. In the interest of public health please use interact or credit card tap payment services only to reduce keypad contact.

Tag a Bags:

Curbside tag-a-bag service for extra garbage is being suspended at this time to cut down on the amount of waste that collection personnel have to manually handle.

Only those currently waiting for delivery of new or replacement carts will be allowed to continue placing additional tag-a-bag garbage or bagged recycling curbside.

Cart Upgrades:

The RDCO and member municipalities will be suspending all cart upgrades until further notice. This includes upgrading the size of garbage and recycling carts, as well as the addition of yard waste carts. Home cart delivery and replacements for broken carts may also be delayed.

Cart Placement and Access:

Help make sure curbside carts are accessible and that vehicles or other objects are not obstructing them as this slows collection. Keep cul-de sacs clear so trucks have adequate space to turn around during collection. Throughout the Central Okanagan on-street parking in residential areas has increased and this makes curbside collection substantially more difficult.

Return It Depots and Hazardous Waste Depot:

Phone ahead to see if your regular retail outlet or drop off location is open. Some locations for household refundables or other depot-only items such as electronics, small appliances have reduced hours and are unable to take back your materials at this time. Please store your materials safely at your home until such time as facilities return to normal service levels. Do not place depot-only items such as refundable, electronics, household hazardous wastes or other depot only items into garbage or recycling carts.

Donation Material

Several charities and non-profit organizations have suspended accepting donations at community drop-off boxes. Please call ahead to determine if they are accepting material. If not, please store any donations in your home until further notice. Do not drop material beside community drop-boxes or outside regular donation collection locations, this is considered a form of illegal dumping.

For further information, please visit rdco.com/recycle or contact the Regional Waste Reduction Office at recycle@rdco.com or call 250.469.6250.

For more information:
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