

# Recycling tips from Minto

Like you, Minto is concerned about the environment. As far back as the 1970s, we were leading the way with energy-saving homes. Today, Minto continues that legacy through the efforts of our dedicated Green Team, which works to measure – and reduce – our environmental impact. And it is working. In addition to a number of achievements and awards, last year Minto was granted the title of Ontario's Green Builder of the Year.

Helping the environment is something we can all do. And recycling is one of the simplest ways for everyone to get involved.

Recycling is an important step in keeping trash out of our landfills and keeping us from wasting our non-renewable resources. And, unlike garbage, recycled materials can be sold, generating money that offsets the cost of garbage collection.

**Here are some ways you can recycle, including specific examples:**

## Black box

Curbside collection (every other week)

- Print material such as newspapers, flyers, magazines and catalogues
- Corrugated cardboard
- Telephone books
- Cereal & cracker boxes (liners removed)
- Shoe and laundry detergent boxes
- Fine paper such as writing paper, computer paper, paper pads
- Hard and soft cover books
- Paper egg cartons, toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- Paper gift wrap, greeting cards
- Clean paper shopping bags or paper packaging
- Frozen dinner boxes
- Pizza boxes (no pizza please!)

When full, your black box should not weigh more than 15kg (33lb), and all paper must be clean.

## Blue box

Curbside collection (every other week)

- Glass, such as bottles and jars
- Canisters with metal ends, such as frozen concentrate cans, Pringles containers
- Metal, such as cans, soft drink cans, aluminum containers, foil
- Plastic bottles, jars, jugs, tubs and containers
- TC Tetra Pak, such as juice boxes, soup boxes and milk boxes

When full, your blue box should not weigh more than 15kg (33lb), and all containers must be clean.

### Need a blue or black box?

New homeowners can obtain a blue and black box at no cost through the City of Ottawa, by calling 3-1-1. They will provide you with a PO# to pick up your boxes at a local Rona or Home Hardware store. If you require additional boxes, you can purchase these at any hardware store.

**Other ways to prevent waste from entering our landfill:**

## Special items

In Ottawa, about 212,000 tonnes of residential waste was sent to landfill in 2005 – that's enough to fill more than 25,000 transport trucks! Roughly two-thirds of this waste goes to the Trail Road Waste Facility landfill, which is City owned and operated. The other third goes to the Carp Road facility, which is owned and operated by Waste Management Canada Inc.

**Here are some other household items that can be diverted from the landfill:**

### Yard waste

From mid-April to mid-November there is curbside collection of yard waste every other week.

- Leaves and yard waste must be placed in compostable paper yard waste bags, a garbage can or cardboard boxes.
- Branches are to be tied and bundled and cannot be more than 1.2m (4ft) in length and 60cm (2ft) in width
- Individual branches should be less than 10cm (4in) in diameter
- Wind fallen fruit and pumpkins can be included

Ensure containers are not more than 15kg (33lb) in weight

### Empty LCBO containers

All wine, beer and spirit containers purchased in Ontario should be returned to The Beer Store for a full deposit refund. This includes glass bottles, bag-in-box, tetra pak containers, plastic bottles, and aluminum and steel containers on which deposits have been charged.

### Appliances

The City of Ottawa does not pick up household appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dryers, dishwashers, hot water tanks, furnaces, oil tanks, etc. at the curb. These appliances contain recyclable parts that can be reused. Residents must make their own arrangements to have them taken away. Check the yellow pages under 'recycling' for a list of businesses providing this service, or take them back to participating "Take it Back!" retailers ([ottawa.ca/takeitback](http://ottawa.ca/takeitback)). Remember that all refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units and dehumidifiers must have refrigerant removed and must be tagged by a certified technician prior to being brought to the landfill site. (Please note that smoke alarms are not defined as hazardous waste and can be placed in your regular garbage for collection).



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## Other household items that can be diverted from the landfill

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### Energy efficient light bulbs

These light bulbs can be returned to retailers (see [ottawa.ca/takeitback](http://ottawa.ca/takeitback))

### Paint

Paint should be disposed of at one of the City's Household Hazardous Waste depots, Home Depot ECO Options, or Rona.

### Tires

Tires are not picked up at the City's curbside collection. Take these back to be recycled at participating retailers.

### Large bulky items

Although large items such as sofas, mattresses and furniture CAN be picked up at the curb during garbage collection, we encourage residents to look for opportunities to recycle. Check the yellow pages under 'recycling' for a list of businesses providing this service, or take them back to participating "Take it Back!" retailers ([ottawa.ca/takeitback](http://ottawa.ca/takeitback)). Or you can donate to your local thrift store!

**Here are some ideas on you can reduce waste in your every day living:**

### Waste reduction tips

- Buy in bulk to reduce packaging
- Bring your own cotton shopping bags to the grocery store

- Ask for paper shopping bags, then reuse, recycle or compost them
- Don't double bag your purchases
- Reuse your plastic grocery bags
- Use and reuse cloth napkins, towels and rags instead of paper napkins and paper towels
- Use and reuse regular plates, cups and silverware instead of using paper plates, cups and plastic ware
- Buy serviceable or quality items and avoid single-use items
- Don't buy produce or baked goods in non-recyclable plastic containers (like clam-shell packages)
- Buy products that are made from recycled materials or packaged in recycled material
- Buy re-chargeable batteries, which are more readily recycled
- Donate your old clothes and furniture to charities and missions to be resold
- Have a garage sale so that someone else can make use of your unwanted things
- Use a travel mug or thermos for your coffee – most coffee houses are glad to refill them for you
- When buying paint, only buy what is required for the job
- Before buying any hazardous waste chemical (such as household cleaners), check to see if there is an environmentally friendly alternative

To learn more about our commitment to thinking green and living greener, visit [minto.com](http://minto.com)



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