

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***Why is the District of Summerland going with a recycling program that uses blue bags instead of blue boxes?***

Research shows that residents prefer blue bag programs where no sorting of recyclables is required. This means that more people participate, and those participants recycle more, diverting more recyclables from the landfill.

Bags are easier to carry to the curb, and there's no box to bring back – it's a one-way trip. Bags protect the materials inside, which means they are more valuable when sold for remanufacture, plus materials don't blow around, producing litter.

Finally, Blue Bag recycling is less expensive than blue box recycling even when the cost of bags is included. The most expensive part of a collection program is the truck and driver. Boxes must be returned to the curb, taking more of the driver and truck's time. Drivers don't need to sort at the curb or return to the plant when one compartment in the truck gets full and the others still have room.

- ***Where can I find clear blue bags for recycling?***

Blue bags can be purchased anywhere you buy regular garbage bags.

- ***What will happen to my collection when a holiday occurs?***

Most holidays occur on a Monday or Friday. Residential curbside collection is scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday. Should New Years Day and Christmas Day collections occur on a regular collection day, that collection will be shifted to a different day, and affected residents will be informed well in advance.

- ***Can a resident 'opt out' of the program?***

Unfortunately, allowing certain residents to opt out would undermine the objectives of curbside program. There are social, legal and environmental benefits of the service, such as tidier streets, less traffic, and achievement of waste reduction goals. These benefits outweigh concerns about variations in the level of use.

The biggest cost of the program is the cost of the truck driving the route past everyone's house. The service is being provided, regardless of whether garbage is being placed at the curb.

Paying for this program is similar to paying for a sewer connection, school taxes, or the local museum. The benefits apply not only to the homeowner, but to the entire community.

- ***The program will not start for another month. How will I remember everything?***

'Starter' packages will be sent out to residents near the end of April. These will contain a letter of introduction, a calendar of collection dates, details about garbage, recycling and yard waste collections, and a blue bag, courtesy of Glad Canada, to get you started.