

# Clear Bag Program Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. When does the Clear Bag Program Start?

The requirement for all garbage to be in 'clear bags', whether for Curbside Collection or at the Transfer Stations, begins June 1, 2021.

## 2. What is a clear garbage bag?

A clear garbage bag must be a clear substance which you can see through. Transfer Station attendants must be able to easily view the contents within your garbage bag, to ensure there are no recyclable materials or hazardous waste.

## 3. Why would a Municipality want to implement a Clear Bag Program?

The Clear Bag Program is often implemented as a cost-effective measure to increase diversion of materials from the waste stream. Implementing a Clear Bag Program also improves worker safety and allows Transfer Station attendants the ability to conduct a quick assessment of the contents within the clear bag(s) to ensure that no recyclable or hazardous items are in the bag.

## 4. What do I do with my left-over opaque garbage bags?

Residents are encouraged to use up all opaque bags now. Clear bags will not be mandatory until June 1, 2021, but are encouraged to be used ASAP. Any left-over opaque bags can be used for personal storage or donate/trade to friends/family not in a jurisdiction requiring the use of clear bags.

## 5. What about my privacy? What if there are items in my garbage that I do not feel comfortable having exposed?

Residents are permitted one small "privacy bag" within each clear bag for their personal items. This will provide an adequate method to enable residents to shield material that they would prefer not to be exposed. Such items may include sanitary products, diapers, incontinence products, personal information that cannot be shredded and recycled, medical objects (not including sharps, or any other unsafe medical items, which should be disposed of in a sharps container provided by your pharmacy or medical professional).

## 6. What retailers sell clear garbage bags?

Clear garbage bags may be purchased at most retailers that carry opaque bags.

## 7. Does the use of clear garbage bags increase waste diversion?

Yes. Other participating Municipalities have reported an increase in the amount of recyclable material diverted from the garbage bag and overall waste stream.

Note: Diversion is the percentage of recyclable material removed from the overall waste stream. Diversion rates are calculated and reported on an annual basis and should not be less than 50%. For example, there should be 1kg of recycling for every 1kg of garbage.

## 8. I am already recycling and diverting as much as I can from the garbage, so why do I need to do this?

For residents that are diligent in recycling and doing their best to divert, this program will make no difference except for simply the colour of the bag. This program is intended to increase participation from households that do not presently recycle material by raising them to the standard of those who already participate.

## 9. What if my garbage bag contains recyclable material?

The Township of North Kawartha is proposing an allowable level of 10% of other divertible (recyclable) material in the garbage bag, at the Transfer Stations. Starting on June 1, 2021, bags at the Transfer Stations will be refused if they contain more than 10% of divertible/recyclable material. Transfer Station attendants may be inspecting garbage bags for compliance.

Divertible/recyclable material includes, but is not limited to: Construction and Demolition (C&D), Leaf and Yard Waste, Scrap Metal, Waste Electronics, etc. These materials may be accepted in designated areas at the Transfer Stations, that are **not** available through Curbside Collection. Therefore, if bringing your garbage to the Transfer Station, we are encouraging Residents to take advantage of all the other diversion/recycling programs available.

Note: there must be **Zero Blue Box Material** in the garbage bag, whether through Curbside Collection or at the Transfer Stations. Blue Box Material (such as Containers and/or Fibres) is banned from the Bensfort Rd. Landfill Site, as per the County of Peterborough By-Law.

## 10. Someone else is using my cottage/residence this summer, what are my responsibilities?

You are responsible for ensuring that any users of your cottage/residence are aware of the Township's clear bag and recycling program. Please leave this information in a common area (i.e. fridge). You are also encouraged to supply your guests with clear bags, and bag tags that can be used at the Transfer Stations.

## 11. What if I do not use a clear garbage bag?

Starting June 1, 2021 clear garbage bags will be mandatory. Residents not using clear garbage bags will be refused Curbside Collection or entry into the Transfer Stations.