

TOWN OF LUNENBURG - CLEAR BAG PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Town of Lunenburg has switched to clear bags for the collection of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste (garbage) in an effort to increase recycling and composting. Clear garbage bags make it easier to see if waste has been properly sorted when placed out for collection. Clear bags also reduce the risk of injury to waste collectors and inspectors if hazardous items have been mistakenly placed in the garbage. Residents and businesses are encouraged to switch to clear bags at their earliest convenience. Changes to the Solid Waste Management By-Law will become effective on **June 1st, 2015** at which time garbage not placed in clear bags with the exception of one (1) privacy bag will not be collected.

What type of clear bag should be used for garbage?

Residents and businesses must use transparent and colourless clear bags for the collection of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste (garbage). The size of the clear bag will be the same as the black or green bags that are presently being used for collection.

Have the sorting rules changed?

The sorting rules have not changed. The only change that has been made is the requirement to use clear bags for garbage with one opaque garbage bag permitted for private items.

What does opaque bag mean?

Opaque bags are made of non-transparent plastic so that you cannot see what is inside the bag. Opaque bags include black bags, dark green bags and the smaller white kitchen catcher bags.

Will I have to use clear bags for recyclables too?

Blue transparent bags will still be used for recyclables such as plastic food containers and bags, metal cans, glass jars and beverage containers. Paper and boxboard (food boxes) will still go in a clear bag or plastic grocery bag.

(See Reverse Side)

What should I do with the black bags I have now?

You can continue using black or green bags until **June 1st, 2015**. As of **June 1st, 2015** only one opaque bag (black or dark green bag) is permitted per dwelling or business per collection in order to dispose of private items which you may not want others to see. All other bags placed at the curb for collection must be clear bags. If you only fill one garbage bag per collection then you may continue to use one opaque bag per collection.

If I use a plastic grocery bags to line my kitchen garbage will I be able to continue using these bags?

You may continue using these bags. You may place these un-emptied grocery bags in an opaque bag keeping in mind that there is a limit of one opaque bag per collection. If you have already filled one opaque bag then you must empty the contents of the grocery bag into a clear bag. Smaller kitchen catcher type clear bags are available which can be placed directly into the larger clear bag which will be put out to the curb for collection.

Can my opaque privacy bag be inspected?

Privacy bags may be inspected. This will ensure that privacy bags only contain garbage and not recyclables, food waste and paper. Recyclables, food waste and paper must not be placed in privacy bags or clear bags.

Can I use a garbage can to store my waste at the curb during collection day?

Clear bags can be placed inside a plastic or metal garbage can for collection. Any waste placed in a plastic or metal garbage can must be bagged so that it can be inspected prior to placing the waste in the collection vehicle.

Where can I purchase clear bags? Are different sizes available and do they cost more than black bags?

Local grocery stores, hardware retailers and department stores sell clear bags of different sizes to suit their customers. Clear bags usually only cost a few cents more than black bags and buying bags in bulk can save money.

How many garbage bags can I place at the curb for each collection?

Up to a maximum of six (6) garbage bags may be placed at the curb per dwelling/business per collection. If you choose to use a privacy bag then one bag will be opaque and the other bag(s) must be clear up to a maximum of five clear bags.

For more information call (902) 634-8992 or visit the Town's Website at

<http://www.explorelunenburg.ca>