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# TRASH TALK

## *FAQ's about the new recycling program*

**Trash Talk is a regular feature about waste management and recycling brought to you by the Public Works Department of the City of Woodstock.**

In early May, information was released to the community about the upcoming recycling changes. This sparked a lot of questions about what these changes mean to our current recycling process and how it will affect residents of Woodstock. Keep reading to get the answers you need before the new program begins – Monday, July 7th.

### **Why did the recycling program have to change?**

With the growth in the city and the increase in materials, the way we collected from the curbside was no longer cost efficient. Our current material processing facility could not handle the volume of material or introduce new products without doing a costly expansion. Since we wanted to introduce additional materials to the recycling program, a major change was necessary.

### **Will there be more changes coming?**

The collected material will be shipped to Toronto and Hamilton for final processing and sale. After the July 7<sup>th</sup> additions to the program, the possibility of adding new products is linked to changes in the programs of those cities. We've signed a four-year contract, so for that period, unless those facilities introduce additional products, we likely won't be making any changes. As we go forward, we don't anticipate another major change in the way we recycle for some time. We're going to be shifting our focus to enhance services in other waste areas, such as household hazardous waste, electronics and other depot-type events so that residents have opportunities that occur more than twice a year to dispose of these materials without putting them in the garbage bag.

### **Why are the routes changing?**

We're trying to even out the areas because of the growth in the city. We had to take 300 homes off one route and

redistribute them. That means for some people the day that they put out their garbage and recycling may change.

### **When and where will the new bins be distributed?**

During the late afternoon/evenings and Saturdays, students will distribute one free black bin to all the homes in Woodstock, along with a pamphlet of information. The students will inform residents of any changes to their garbage and recycling route and how material should be set out at the curb, as well as answer general questions about the new program.

### **What happens if someone puts something in the bin that isn't recyclable?**

If it's identified as an ineligible item in the green or black bin, it will be left in the bin for disposal by the homeowner.

### **If plastic bags are recyclable, why can't we put our recyclables in bags?**

We're going to a mechanized process, where they don't have people to rip open bags like we do here. So if it's bagged and knotted, it potentially means it won't be recycled. We want to discourage the use of bags. Use the bins – for fibres, put your lighter stuff at the bottom and the heavier stuff at the top to minimize your blow away. Plastic bags go into the container bin, so if you put your plastic bags together in the container bin, they will be properly recycled. Any container can be used to set out recyclables; not just the ones supplied by the City. The most important message is that the fibres materials must be separated from the containers materials.

For more information about the new recycling program, collection routes and a complete list of acceptable items, visit our new website at [www.gogreenwoodstock.ca](http://www.gogreenwoodstock.ca).