

FALL REMINDERS

UPCOMING REGIONAL GARBAGE CHANGES

Commencing October 19th, 2020, Niagara Region will ONLY be picking up garbage waste every other week.

There will be NO change to the recycling program and recyclables will continue to be picked up every week.

Garbage MUST NOT be left on the common elements. Any unit leaving their garbage out on days other than the scheduled pick up day, will be charged accordingly for its removal.

GARBAGE STORAGE

All garbage and recycling bins MUST be kept off the common elements, except on scheduled pick up days.

Please remember to keep containers closed tight and any bags secured. This will aid in keeping the critters out and preventing garbage from blowing around the community.

Garbage and recycling bins have to be stored either inside your unit or at the rear on your exclusive use patio.

FALL UPKEEP & MAINTENANCE

If you currently have a window air conditioner installed, please note that cardboard or plywood must not be used as a window covering. Any covering to a window MUST match the colour of the trim of your unit. Window air conditioning units should be removed from the windows by October 31st, 2020.

It's time to clean up your gardens. Please remove any seasonal plantings and dispose of them in the proper waste bags.

Dryer vents should be kept clear of lint and lint traps should be cleaned every time you use your dryer so that it works efficiently and prevents buildup in the dryer exhaust hose. It is recommended that dryer vents be cleaned annually.

Don't forget to turn off your outdoor water tap and drain any water out by October 20th, 2020. This will prevent frozen lines and any potential damages occurring due to a breakage.

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1st, 2020, don't forget to set your clocks back one hour and this is a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detector.

This is also a good time of year to ensure that you have a fire extinguisher in your home and that it has not expired. Each unit owner should have content insurance to protect their belongings in case of a disaster.

Please avoid parking over the sidewalks. This poses a safety hazard for families with strollers and residents using the sidewalks. Keeping the sidewalks clear will also allow for proper snow removal.

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Niagara's residential diversion rate (the percentage of waste not going to landfill) has levelled off to around 56 per cent, and we continue to send about 44 per cent of our waste to landfills. To reduce the amount of recyclables and organic waste going into our landfills, we're making changes.

The new waste collection contract includes changes that will:

- Help increase diversion
- Preserve landfill space for waste that can't be recycled or composted
- Save natural resources
- Reduce our impact on climate change

Residents who use their Blue Box, Grey Box and Green Bin should be able to stay within the two garbage bag / can limit every-other-week. Waste audit results show that 64 per cent of what Niagara residents place in the garbage can be recycled or composted.

To further promote our diversion programs, Niagara Region's Waste Management By-law doesn't allow recyclable and organic material in the garbage. We all need to do our share to reduce recyclable and organic waste being sent to landfills. Some key environmental and financial benefits of every-other-week garbage collection include:

- Extended lifespan for open Regional landfills
- Increase in the participation and capture rates in Niagara Region diversion programs
 - Only 48 per cent of Niagara's single family homes and apartments with six units or less use the Green Bin program
 - Industrial, commercial and institutional and mixed use audits show recycling and organics diversion programs are underutilized
 - Only 34 per cent of industrial, commercial and institutional and 61 per cent of mixed use properties outside designated business areas participate in the recycling program
- Reduction of organics being landfilled will result in less methane emissions reducing the landfill carbon footprint for climate change reduction
- Improved leachate quality, which lessens the potential for environmental impact
- Long-term cost reduction with care and control of landfill sites
- Increased net processing revenue from the sale of more recyclables due to increased volumes
- Conservation of non-renewable resources

Reducing our environmental impact is everyone's responsibility. Sort it, box it or bin it to limit what's sent to landfills.

Residents can download the mobile app for Apple or Android smartphones. In the mobile app, you will find the garbage/recycling collection schedule specific to your house address, with the ability to sign up and receive a collection day reminder. As part of signing up for a reminder, you will also receive updates in case of collection changes or delays.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping can take on many forms, such as dumping garbage from a home or business into a public litter bin. Under the Region's Waste Management By-law, this activity is not allowed and fines are still in effect. Research has proven that similar municipalities that have switched to every-other-week garbage collection haven't seen an increase in dumping, as residents have properly sorted and recycled their waste.