



Garbage & Recycling FAQ's and Tips to ensure your Solid Waste & Recycling is collected

1. What happens to my cart during collection?

Your carts are specially designed for Automated Collection. The Town of Bowden has contracted with Can Pak Environmental for residential collection. On collection day, a truck equipped with a lifting mechanism on the side picks up your cart and dumps it into the enclosed holding tank on the truck. The loading process only takes a few seconds and is controlled by the driver from inside the truck. Automation eliminates manual loading, thus reducing the staff costs and job-related injuries. One truck can cover large residential areas very quickly.

2. What if my cart isn't picked up?

Cart collection starts very early in the morning. Your cart must be out by 7:00 a.m. on collection days. To maintain the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the system, drivers do not backtrack to pick up carts that were not placed out on the street on time.

Other factors that could result in non-pickup:

- a. Cart is placed too close to vehicle(s) – Must be 1M or more away from vehicles or other carts so that the mechanical arm can access the cart properly.
- b. Cart is on the curb or boulevard instead of street. – Cart must be on the street so that the mechanical arm can reach the Cart.
- c. Cart is sideways or backwards. Again, this can create issues with the mechanical arm pick-up and may result in damage to cart that the resident will be liable for.
- d. Cart has contaminated or restricted items inside. The carts are designed to hold regular household waste or recyclable items.
- e. Cart placed on street is not the correct cart for the collection day. If you place your BLUE cart on the street on BLACK cart collection day it will not be collected and vice versa.
- f. Cart is over-full and the lid cannot be closed. Drivers will NOT pick up any extra bags of garbage or recycling that are set out beside the cart. Do not place extra waste or recycling on top of the cart lid.

3. What are contaminated or restricted items?

Your BLACK garbage cart shall not contain the following items:

- Liquid wastes
- Chemical Containers
- Animal Carcasses
- Loose Wire
- Burning Wastes
- Hazardous wastes
- Car parts
- Household appliances and furniture
- Explosive wastes

If it is found that your cart contains ANY of these items, it will not be collected. BLACK garbage carts should only contain household waste that cannot be composted or recycled.

Your BLUE recycling cart shall not contain the following items:

- Waxed cardboard
- Paper towels or tissues
- Ceramics, china, glass plates, light bulbs or mirrors
- Tupperware or similar containers
- Styrofoam packaging of any kind
- Absolutely NO disposable diapers
- Kitty litter of any kind
- Electronics
- Clothing or footwear of any kind
- No liquids of any kind

If it is found that your cart contains ANY of these items, it will not be collected. BLUE Recycle carts should only contain recyclable items.

4. What happens if my bin is damaged or stolen?

Please be aware that the Town of Bowden's Bylaw 03 – 2014 (Solid Waste Management & Recycling Bylaw) identifies that:

- a) [Section 9.5\(h\) The owner or occupant of a dwelling house shall ensure that all collection carts assigned to the dwelling house are returned to their storage area no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day of collection.](#)

It is important that you remove your collection cart from the street by no later than 10:00 p.m. on pickup day. Carts that remain on the street past this timeline pose a potential risk for travelling motorists and may interfere with street maintenance and snow removal.

As well, it is also important to note that this poses a risk for damage to the cart from being left on the street for extended periods of time. The parcel owner is responsible to pay for a new cart in the unlikely event that extensive cart damage occurs.

Failure to remove your cart in a timely fashion may also result in fines being levied against the homeowner as per the Bylaw 03 – 2014. Minimum fine is \$250.00.

All of the Automated Collection Carts are the property of the Town of Bowden. It is your responsibility to ensure that your cart is kept in a secure location. If your cart is damaged during regular collection on collection day, the cart will be repaired or replaced at no charge to you. If you cause or allow damage to the cart, or if your cart is stolen, you will be required to pay for the repair or replacement. Each case is investigated.

5. What happens if I move?

Carts are the property of The Town of Bowden and must remain at the address to which they have been assigned. Carts are marked with unique serial numbers which are recorded to each address.

**For further information please contact the
Town of Bowden Office at 403-224-3395,
or visit us on the web at www.town.bowden.ab.ca**