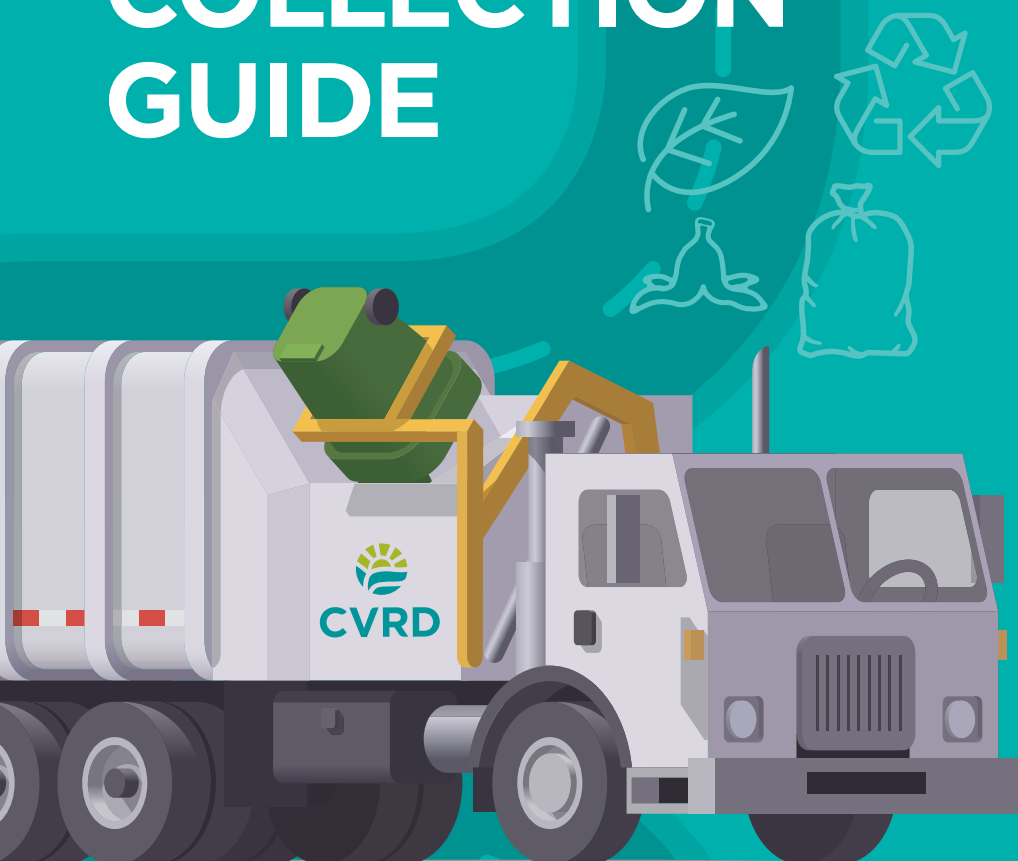




THREE-STREAM CURBSIDE COLLECTION GUIDE



**Use new curbside collection totes on
your first scheduled pickup day in June**

Message from the CVRD Board Chair

Starting in June 2025, all nine CVRD Electoral Areas will move to a three-stream curbside collection system including garbage, organics, recyclables and glass. I know that change is never easy, especially when it comes with added household costs. While some residents are eager for this long-awaited service, I also recognize that many have concerns about the new fee. I want to acknowledge those concerns directly.

This service is an investment in our region's future. Right now, we pay to ship our garbage to Washington State and as landfill space becomes more limited, those costs will only rise. By expanding curbside collection, we can reduce the waste we send away and keep more resources in BC, supporting local recycling and composting initiatives. Over time, this will help stabilize waste management costs while improving sustainability.

We also heard concerns about wildlife safety which is why every household will receive a bear-resistant organics tote. Households new to CVRD curbside garbage service will also receive a bear-resistant garbage tote, while those already using CVRD garbage collection will have their totes upgraded over time. These changes are designed to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to ask questions and share feedback throughout this process. Your input has helped shape this service and I appreciate your patience as we make this transition together. By working as a community, we can reduce waste, protect our environment and create a cleaner, more sustainable Cowichan Valley.

- Kate Segall, Board Chair, Cowichan Valley Regional District



How the Service Works

Beginning June 2, residents can start using their new curbside collection totes/bins according to the new curbside collection schedule.



Food and yard waste is collected every week in the rolling green tote.



Recyclables are collected every two weeks in the rolling blue tote.



Garbage is collected every two weeks in the rolling black tote.



Glass bottles and jars are collected every four weeks in the yellow bin.



Use this bin to collect the food scraps from the kitchen and transport it to the green tote for collection.

What Size are the New Totes?

The **standard** size for the new organics and garbage totes is 132 L (37.5"H x 20.3"W x 26"D). Glass bins are 27 L.

The CVRD will offer tote size upgrades in 2026 after residents have had some time to become familiar with the service.



What Goes Where?

Green Organics Tote

Food Waste: Cooked and Raw Food Products



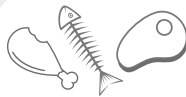
Leftovers



Bread, Baking,
Pasta & Grains



Fruits &
Vegetables



Raw & Cooked
Meat/Bones



Eggs & Dairy
Products



Soiled Paper
Food Containers



Napkins &
Paper Towels



Coffee Grounds
& Tea Bags

Yard Waste



Flowers



Branches/Sticks
less than 1.5cm
thick & 60cm long



Grass & Weeds



Leaves &
Prunings

The following is not permitted:

- ✗ Plastics (including compostable, biodegradable or oxodegradable)
- ✗ Produce stickers
- ✗ Pet waste
- ✗ Dirt/soil
- ✗ Rocks
- ✗ Personal hygiene products
- ✗ Large branches/stumps

Black Garbage Tote



Compostable/
Biodegradable Plastics



Pet Waste



Personal Hygiene
Products



Glass & Ceramic
Products



Hard Plastics



Broken, Irreparable,
Non-donatable Items

The following is not permitted:

- ✗ Metal
- ✗ Appliances
- ✗ Electronics
- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Propane canisters
- ✗ Light bulbs

Some of these items are hazardous and may cause fires if improperly disposed—take them to a Recycling Centre free drop-off

Yellow Glass Bin: Bottles & Jars



**Clear and Coloured Glass
Bottles & Jars ONLY**

Plastic and metal lids must be placed in your blue recyclables tote.

The following is not permitted:

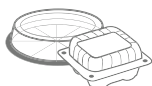
- ✗ Ceramics
- ✗ Glassware
- ✗ Dishes
- ✗ Windows
- ✗ Mirrors
- ✗ Light bulbs
- ✗ Refundable bottles

Blue Recyclables Tote: Household Packaging

Plastic



Cups & Lids



**Clamshells
& Trays**



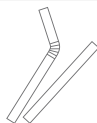
**Plant Pots
& Saucers**



Jars & Lids



Bottles & Caps



Straws



Cutlery



Spray Containers

Metal



**Spiral Cans with
Metal Lids**



Empty Aerosols

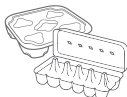


**Cans, Pie Plates
& Takeout
Containers**



Foil

Paper



**Drink Trays &
Egg Cartons**



**Frozen Dessert
Containers**



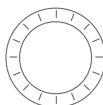
Paper Cups



Paper Bags



**Non-refundable
cartons**



Paper Plates



**Newspapers,
Envelopes,
Magazines & Paper**



**Cardboard &
Boxboard**

All items must be clean and dry and fit loosely in your tote.
For a full list of accepted materials, scan the QR code or
visit: recyclebc.ca/what-can-i-recycle/



Guidelines for Successful Collection

Totes may not be collected if guidelines are not followed



Sort your material correctly

Unsure what goes where? Download the Cowichan Recycles App or use the Cowichan Recyclopeda.

cvrd.ca/2584/Recyclopedia



The CVRD is bear country! Be Bear Aware and keep waste secure overnight

Bring totes to the curb between 5:00 am and 7:30 am on collection day.



On collection day, bring totes to the curb and ensure totes are placed with the arrows on the lid pointed towards the road



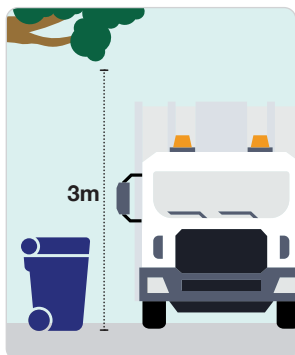
All material must fit inside the tote with the lid fully closed

Overfilled totes may spill material when tipped into collection vehicles.

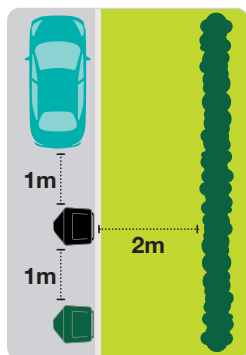
360° Degree Spacing

The collection vehicle's automated mechanical arms require clearance overhead, behind and between totes for safe collection.

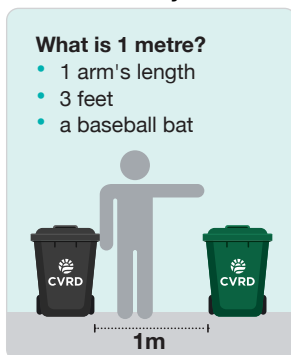
3m Clearance Overhead



2m Clearance Behind



1m Clearance Between Totes and Other Objects



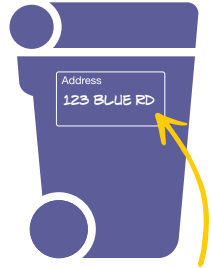
Know Your Totes

Did you know that your totes are the property of the CVRD? Each tote is equipped with an identification tag and must remain at it's assigned property. To keep track of your tote and ensure that it remains at the correct address, please record the serial number (found on the front/ back of the tote) in this booklet.

Blue recycling
tote serial #

Black garbage
tote serial #

Green organics
tote serial #

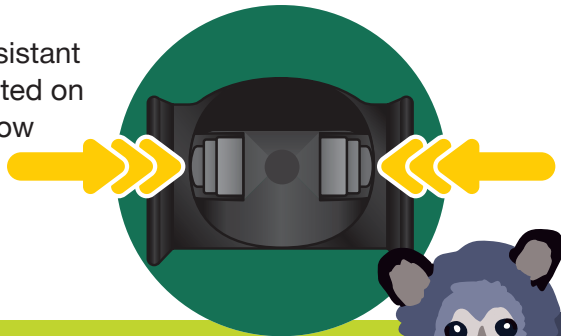


Write your address
on your totes in the
space provided.

How to Use Bear-Resistant Totes

Bear-resistant totes are equipped with gravity locking mechanisms that open automatically when totes are tipped into collection vehicles and lock when totes are returned to the ground.

To open the lid of a bear-resistant tote, pinch the buttons located on the front of the tote just below the lid, and then lift the lid. The buttons should easily pinch together and should not bind or catch.



Please contact the CVRD if:

- The lid of your bear-resistant tote doesn't latch automatically
- The lid doesn't unlatch when the buttons are fully pinched
- The buttons bind or catch

Three-Stream Curbside Collection Tips

- **Where can I get my curbside collection schedule?**

Download the Cowichan Recycles app to have collection schedule reminders and service alerts sent directly to your phone or email.

- **Should I use a liner in my organics tote and/or food scrap bin?**

Liners are optional. Acceptable liners include shredded paper, paper bags, newspaper or boxboard. Per provincial regulation, composting facilities are not able to accept plastic liners (or any plastic items) even if they are labeled compostable.

- **What should I do if one of my totes is lost, stolen or damaged?**

To request a replacement or to report a lost or stolen tote, call the Recycling Hotline at **250.746.2540** or email **curbside@cvrld.bc.ca**

For more tips and frequently asked questions, visit planyourcowichan.ca/curbside-collection or scan the QR code.



Questions?

Call the **Recycling Hotline**
at **250.746.2540**
or email **curbside@cvrld.bc.ca**

