

sorting it out

for tenants:
a guide for multi-unit
residential buildings



CONTENTS

IMPORTANCE OF SORTING	1
Benefits for your community	1
The impact of not sorting	1
Financial benefit	1
TENANT RESPONSIBILITIES	2
Where and how your building sorts waste	2
Sorting in your apartment	2
What your landlord needs to provide	2
The facilities your building should have	3
REDUCING MADE EASY	3
COMPOSTING MADE EASY	4
RECYCLING MADE EASY	4
RESOURCES	5
Important contact information	5
Helpful links	5
BANNED MATERIAL	6

Living in an apartment or condo can sometimes make it difficult to recognize the individual impact you have on the environment and the waste you are contributing to landfills. Sorting your waste is the law, and it is the right thing to do for Nova Scotia and the environment. This booklet will help you get started by providing you with information and tips about sorting your waste. It will also inform you of your responsibilities and rights as a tenant.

VISIT US AT
reduceyourwaste.ca
FOR MORE
INFORMATION!





INTRODUCTION

IMPORTANCE OF SORTING

BENEFITS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

In the past 10 years, we have seen a giant leap in the awareness and efforts placed on protecting the environment and becoming environmentally conscious. Sorting waste in your daily life is part of this cultural environmental change, and you can help contribute to this change starting today.

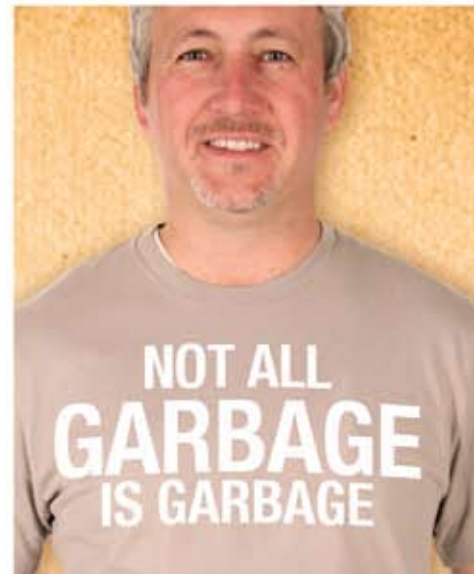
THE IMPACT OF NOT SORTING

Many people believe that their individual actions have little to no impact on the environment. Each person must commit to helping divert material from our landfills by sorting waste daily. Even the smallest changes can produce enormous benefits. Each year Nova Scotians throw away approximately 417kg of waste. That's nearly 1000lbs EACH! As a whole, Canadians generate approximately 31 million tonnes of garbage a year and only recycle about 30 percent of that material. There is only one solution to this problem: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost! And it starts with YOU.

FINANCIAL BENEFIT

Even if you live in an apartment, the benefits of composting, reducing waste and recycling really add up. A landfill can cost more than \$15 million to create. Space taken up by recyclable and compostable material is not only a waste of taxpayer dollars, but it also negatively affects the environment we live in. Most Nova Scotia municipalities charge additional fees for unsorted waste or will not accept the load. So when landlords and tenants work together, it's better for everyone.

The province of Nova Scotia has set a goal of reaching a solid waste disposal rate of 300kg/person/year by 2015. Let's cut waste by 1/4 and get to 300kg!





TENANT RESPONSIBILITIES

WHERE AND HOW YOUR BUILDING SORTS WASTE

As a tenant, you are responsible for...

- Sorting all of your household waste (for sorting guides and other useful information visit www.reduceyourwaste.ca)
- Placing all waste in the appropriate location for collection
- Being familiar and complying with waste sorting rules in your municipality and your building

Waste from your household must be sorted and placed for collection as detailed in the chart below.

Fill this out with your Landlord

MATERIAL	HOW (# OF BAGS, COLOUR & SIZE)	WHERE (BIN LOCATION)
RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS		
RECYCLABLE PAPER		
CARDBOARD		
ORGANICS		
GARBAGE		

SORTING IN YOUR APARTMENT

Many apartment dwellers say that lack of space is one of the main reasons they don't participate in sorting. However, by making regular trips to the recycling and composting containers, you should find that storing materials is not an issue, and can usually be done on the way out the door.

Landlord Name:

Contact Number:

WHAT YOUR LANDLORD NEEDS TO PROVIDE*

As a tenant, it is your landlord's responsibility to provide the necessary facilities, bins, storage, and information to you. All apartment buildings in Nova Scotia are required by law to provide a separate bin for organics, recyclable paper and containers, cardboard and garbage, as well as proper waste storage facilities for tenants.

* This information should be confirmed with your local municipality.

THE FACILITIES YOUR BUILDING SHOULD HAVE

It is your landlord's responsibility to not only have the necessary waste separation containers in your building, but to also make certain that they are kept in good condition by ensuring the following:

- **Cleanliness** – Keeping the bins clean and free of odors is important for sanitary reasons, and to encourage usage.
- **Timely pick-up** – Schedule regular pick-ups at your building.
- **Easy access** – Waste separation containers need to be easily accessible to all tenants at any time. If a key is required, it is important that all tenants receive one.
- **Safety** – All of the waste facilities in your building should be checked regularly to ensure they are safe and free of any hazards.

If you don't know where the waste storage facilities are, ask. Landlords must provide these facilities. If you can't get the answers you are looking for, you can find your regional waste coordinator contact information at rrfb.com.

REDUCING MADE EASY

Separating waste may seem daunting at first, but becomes a natural habit once you allow yourself to get involved. Updated and easy to understand sorting guides can be found online at www.reduceyourwaste.ca or from your landlord. Here are some easy tips to incorporate in your daily life to help you reduce your waste:

- When shopping, choose products with the least packaging.
Buy in bulk or economy size - this uses less packaging and saves you money
- Bring a reusable shopping bag and refuse to accept plastic bags if you don't need them
- Store food in resealable containers rather than using single use wrap or foil
- Pack a wasteless lunch for you and everyone in your home. Use a reusable lunch box or bag and fill it with your lunch in reusable containers
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Switch to electronic billing
- Donate unwanted furniture, clothing and other household items to local charities
- Rent or borrow seldom used items from a friend
- Bring a reusable coffee mug to the coffee shop – you often get a discount when you do this!
- Donate magazines to seniors' residences or doctors' offices





COMPOSTING MADE EASY

There are two essential tools for successfully removing organics from the waste stream: a mini bin for collecting organics in the kitchen, and a large organics bin.

1. Store your mini bin in a convenient location (under the kitchen sink is the most common spot).
2. To absorb moisture from food scraps and to help keep your kitchen bin clean, line it with:
 - Used napkins, paper plates or paper towels
 - A sheet of newspaper
 - Paper bags
 - Boxboard (cracker or cereal grade boxes with plastic liners removed)
3. Do not put any plastic in the container.
4. Drain wet food in the sink before putting it in the mini bin.
5. Empty the contents of your mini bin into the large organics bin.
6. Wash your mini bin with soap and water.

Note: There are many options for collecting organics in the kitchen – besides a mini bin, residents are encouraged to use something as simple as an ice cream container. There are also many mini bin options at local hardware and department stores.

RECYCLING MADE EASY

RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS must be rinsed clean, with caps removed.

RECYCLABLE PAPER must be clean and dry.

CARDBOARD must be flattened and bundled.

NO LOOSE MATERIALS IN THE BINS

BEVERAGE CONTAINERS can be returned to an ENVIRO-DEPOT™ for a refund. To find an ENVIRO-DEPOT™ near you visit, reduceyourwaste.ca or call 1-877-313-7732.

RESOURCES

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

All municipalities in Nova Scotia have waste reduction educators. These knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff have a wealth of information on the 3R's and composting and are happy to share it. They can also provide free education sessions in your building. Call your waste reduction educator today and discuss how they can help you! To find an educator in your area, visit rrfb.com or call 1-877-313-7732.

HELPFUL LINKS

For quick and easy access to sorting guides, tools and resources on sorting waste in your region visit reduceyourwaste.ca.

- The Residential Tenancies Act can be seen at gov.ns.ca/snsmr/pdf/ans-residential-tenancies-standard-form-lease.pdf
- To reach RRFB Nova Scotia, please contact 1-877-313-7732 or visit rrfb.com
- To review the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations, please see gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/REGS/envsolid.htm
- To recycle unwanted electronics, please contact Atlantic Canada Electronics Stewardship (ACES) at ACESewardship.ca or 1-877-774-3260
- To return beverage containers for refund, please contact RRFB Nova Scotia at 1-877-313-7732 or visit reduceyourwaste.ca to find an ENVIRO-DEPOT™ near you
- To recycle unwanted cell phones, please contact Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association at 1-888-797-1740 or recyclemycell.ca



BANNED MATERIAL

This is a list of materials banned from disposal in landfills in Nova Scotia. Additional materials may be banned by your municipality.

BANNED MATERIAL	WHERE SHOULD IT GO
Refundable beverage containers* (excluding milk product containers)	ENVIRO-DEPOT™ for a refund or a Recycling bag
Corrugated cardboard	Flattened and bundled
Newsprint	Recycling bag (or in grocery bag; check your Municipal sorting guide for details)
Metal food containers	Recycling bag**
Glass food containers	Recycling bag**
Low and high density polyethylene plastics 	Recycling bag**
Food waste and other organics	Green cart or backyard composter
Electronics	ACES Drop-off Centres***
Used tires (rims removed)	Take back to a tire retailer (up to 4 at a time)
Leaf and yard waste	Green cart or backyard composter
Household paint	ENVIRO-DEPOT™*



* To locate an ENVIRO-DEPOT™ in your area please call 1-877-313-7732

** See reduceyourwaste.ca for sorting guides

*** To locate an ACES Drop Off Centre in your area please call 1-877-774-3260 or visit ACESewardship.ca. To recycle your cell phone contact www.recyclenycell.ca or 1-888-797-1740