

General FAQs

Q. What is the Clear Bag Program?

A. Effective January 2, 2018, you must place your garbage in clear bags.

A small opaque bag (the size of a grocery bag) may be placed inside the clear bag to conceal private material, or you can place your clear bag inside a garbage can to conceal your garbage until the collector arrives.

If you only produce as much garbage as would fit your privacy bag, the privacy bag can be left at the curb for collection or dropped off at the Transfer Station without placing it inside of a clear bag.

Opaque bags will not be collected at the curb or accepted at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station as of January 2, 2018.

Q. Why is Douro-Dummer making the change from dark bags to clear bags?

A. Douro-Dummer participates in waste audits to examine the composition of garbage so that we can continue to improve our waste management practices; recent audits indicate high amounts of hazardous, recyclable, and compostable material in garbage bags. While these materials have been banned from the waste stream since 2013 (by By-law No. 2013-10), the rules have been hard to enforce since the material was shielded by opaque garbage bags.

Clear bags will help our collectors identify materials that are banned from garbage disposal. Clear bags will also protect our collectors from glass, knives, and other sharp items currently hidden in the dark bags.

The Peterborough County-City Waste Management Facility on Bensfort Road currently accepts our waste, but this site has a limited life of perhaps 15 years. The replacement cost of this site exceeds 10 million dollars and will take nearly a decade to establish, it is therefore in our best financial and land use interest to extend the life of the landfill as much as possible.

This switch to clear bags aligns with our Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gases. Compostable material that is buried in garbage creates methane gas (a greenhouse gas) that must be captured and managed, which incurs additional costs to the management of garbage. Decreasing our overall garbage foot print will help extend the life of the waste site and minimize our long term costs.

Q. What about my privacy?

A. To conceal private material 1 (one) small opaque bag, such as a grocery bag, may be used and placed inside your clear bag. You can also place your clear bag inside a garbage can.

The privacy bag is meant to conceal items you wish to remain obscured from public view. Garbage such as diapers or used tissues do not need to be placed in the privacy bag, they can be placed in the clear bag with other garbage.

Private documents should not be placed in the garbage. Please shred confidential documents and place the shredded material in a bag in your fibres Blue box for collection. If you don't

have a shredder, watch for special shredding events on www.dourodummer.on.ca for event announcements.

Q. Will someone be looking through my garbage each week?

A. Collectors will gauge whether a bag conforms to the By-law regarding compost, recycling, and hazardous waste based on what can be seen through the clear bag. Collectors will not be opening and going through your garbage bags.

Q. Do other communities use clear garbage bags?

A. Yes. Communities all across Canada and the U.S.A have implemented clear garbage bag programs. As of 2015, over a half million Canadian households participated in a clear bag collection program. More local examples of communities with clear bag collection programs include Markham, The City of Guelph, The City of Kawartha Lakes, and Trent Lakes.

Q. I use opaque bags under my sink and throughout my home (i.e. grocery bags or white kitchen catchers), can I tie them up and throw them into my clear bag?

A. A single small grocery bag is permitted within your clear bag to serve as a privacy bag. Waste bin contents from around the house can be dumped into larger clear bags or use clear kitchen catcher bags through-out your home; clear kitchen catchers should be available at local retailers. Multiple opaque garbage bags inside the clear bag will not be accepted.

Q. Will clear bags cost more and where can I buy clear garbage bags?

A. Clear garbage bags should cost the same as dark bags of the same size and style. Many retailers in Lakefield, Douro, Warsaw, Norwood, and Peterborough have been notified of the change and many already carry clear garbage bags in a variety of sizes.

We currently have confirmation that Home Hardware stores in Lakefield and Norwood are carrying clear bags, as well as Morello's, Walmart, Canadian Tire, Costco, and Swish.

Q. What happens if I don't use clear bags after January 2, 2018?

A. Opaque bags will not be collected at the curb or accepted at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station as of January 2, 2018.

Clear bags will allow waste collectors to identify recyclable, compostable, and hazardous materials in garbage bags. Residents that do not remove these materials from the waste stream will not have their bags collected at the curb, nor will they be accepted at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station.

Q. I don't use bags at all, I throw garbage loose into a garbage can for collection.

A. This is an acceptable method of disposing of your garbage.

The same rules regarding what must be sorted out of your garbage bag will apply to waste that is loose in garbage cans—there can be no hazardous materials, no compost, and no recycling in the garbage can. Failure to comply will result in garbage cans from the non-compliant address being left until waste materials are properly sorted.

Q. What can I do with any extra dark bags I have left over after January 2, 2018?

A. Peterborough County residents are permitted to use the Peterborough County/City Waste Management Facility located at 1260 Bensfort Road. This waste facility will continue to accept

black bags after the launch of the Clear Garbage Bag Program in Douro-Dummer. For information on the Peterborough County/City Waste Management Facility and tipping fees visit www.peterborough.ca/Living/Waste_Management/Landfill/Facility.htm

Unused opaque bags can be traded with people who do not yet require clear bags in their Community. Opaque bags can be used to transport clothing or other donations to charity organizations, or the bags themselves can be donated. Opaque bags that are only partially filled (to the size of a grocery bag) can be used as the privacy bag within the clear bag.

Q. Does renovation material get picked up with the garbage?

A. Renovation materials will not be collected at the curb; some materials, such as insulation and vapour barrier, may be brought to the Hall's Glen Transfer Station. **Shingles and drywall will not be accepted at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station**, they must be brought to the M & M Disposals Transfer Station at 348 County Road 6. M & M Disposal can be contacted at (705) 652-3505.

Q. How should I dispose of objects with sharp edges?

A. Any object with sharp edges must be labeled "broken glass/sharp object" and wrapped in cardboard or placed in a protective container to cover any exposed or sharp edges so that it is safe to handle.

Medical sharps should be disposed of in appropriate containers and delivered to participating pharmacies. Contact your pharmacy for details.

Q. What are we going to do with garbage or compost that is dumped in the ditches?

A. This is called illegal dumping and is a serious offence with penalties. Information that can be safely obtained, such as the licence plate number of the vehicle involved and the location of the dumping is valuable, but do not pick up or go through dumped garbage. Please contact the Township of Douro-Dummer Municipal Office at (705) 652-8392 to report illegal dumping.

Q. Am I allowed to burn my garbage?

A. Burning of Prohibited Material, such as garbage, compost, or recyclables is banned by our Open Air Burning By-Law, which will be enforced. Only clean, dry wood or wood by-products are allowed to be burned. Painted, pressure treated, or glued wood products are not considered clean and are prohibited. Information on burning in the Township of Douro-Dummer can be found in By-law No. 2015-29.

Recycling FAQs

Q. What goes in my Blue box?

A. If you are unsure about what is accepted in Blue boxes in the County of Peterborough, please visit www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling and use the Searchable Waste Portal. You can pick up literature from the County Public Works office in Peterborough or from the Municipal Office in the Hamlet of Warsaw, or you can call us at (705) 652-8392.

Q. Can shredded paper be included in my Blue box?

A. Shredded paper goes into recycling with other fibre recyclables, please bag shredded paper and place it in your fibres Blue box.

Confidential documents should not be placed in the privacy bag; please shred confidential documents and place the shredded material in a bag in your fibres Blue box for collection. If you don't have a shredder, watch for special shredding events on the Douro-Dummer webpage.

Q. Do I put my other recyclables in plastic bags?

A. Other recyclables (such as plastic, metal, and glass containers) should be loose in your Blue Box. Film plastic (such as grocery or mattress bags) can be stuffed into a bag, which is then tied shut to keep film plastic separate from paper in the fibre Blue box.

Q. How do I recycle my electronics and batteries?

A. Unwanted electronics and batteries are not accepted at the curb for disposal. Electronics can be dropped off at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station. Used electronics in good, working condition may be donated to charity organizations, check with the organization to confirm that they accept electronic donations.

Batteries are collected at the following locations in the Township of Douro-Dummer:

- Warsaw Municipal Building, 894 South Street, Hamlet of Warsaw
- Douro-Dummer Library, 425 Douro Fourth Line, Hamlet of Douro
- Halls Glen Transfer Station, 1951 County Road 6, Douro-Dummer
- Douro Community Centre, 2893 Highway 28, Douro-Dummer
- Warsaw Community Centre, 93 Ford Street, Hamlet of Warsaw

Q. Where do I get a Blue Box?

A. Blue Boxes can be purchased for \$5.00 (tax included) from:

1. the Municipal Office 894 South Street in the Hamlet of Warsaw Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or
2. from the County of Peterborough at the County Public Works office 310 Armour Road in Peterborough, Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Blue boxes have outer measurements of 22 x 17 x 14.5 inches (width x depth x height). Please contact the Municipal Office to ensure Blue Boxes are in stock. Blue boxes do not need to be from the Township of Douro-Dummer or Peterborough County to be used, they may be purchased from other jurisdictions or retail stores.

Q. My Blue Box is damaged. Can it be replaced?

A. Broken or damaged Blue Boxes can be exchanged free of charge at the Municipal Office in the Hamlet of Warsaw or at the County Public Works office in Peterborough. Bring your damaged Blue box in to exchange it; exchanges are for a sturdy Blue box with outer measurements of 22 x 17 x 14.5 inches (width x depth x height). Please contact the Municipal Office to ensure Blue Boxes are in stock.

Q. Why isn't my recycling always picked up?

A. Recycling needs to be sorted and packaged so that the collectors are able to deal with it safely and efficiently.

Recycling generally needs to be sorted into two bins: one bin for containers (glass, plastic, metal, tetrapacks, etc...) and one bin for fibres (paper and film plastic). Bins that are not sorted properly, that have containers and fiber products mixed together, will not be picked up. Collectors have been pricked and cut by hidden sharps when they separate bins at the curb for residents, which results in an immediate trip to the hospital, delays in collection, and cost increases. To prevent this, collectors have been instructed not to sort any material. If the bins appear to be mixed, they will not be picked up.

Some of the recycling trucks have limited openings that can be used by the collectors, the openings are approximately the size of a Blue box. Material such as cardboard that is not broken down (to 30 x 30 x 8 inches) is not accepted as it won't fit easily into the trucks.

Compost FAQs

Q. Why isn't the Township introducing a compost collection?

A. At this time, compost collection is cost-prohibitive; curbside compost collection is very costly to implement, especially in a Township where the population is spread out over a large area, as is the case in Douro-Dummer.

Q. How do I dispose of compostable material?

A. Residents have a few choices to dispose of compostable material: you can purchase or build a composter on your property, you can purchase or build a digester on your property, or you can drop compostable material off at the Molok bins at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station.

Q. What do I do with bones/meat/oil that aren't usually part of a composting program?

A. These items can be placed in home digesters or in the Moloks at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station.

While a home digester needs to have some upfront work done to prepare a site, a digester requires less maintenance work than a composter, can accept a greater diversity of kitchen scraps, and generally offers years of service before any more maintenance work is required.

Q. Where do I get a composter or digester?

A. A limited number of composters and digesters are available at the Douro-Dummer Municipal Office in the Hamlet of Warsaw.

Composters also make great do-it-yourself projects. Composters can be made very simply or as elaborately as desired, a search using "homemade composting bins" on Google reveals a plethora of great ideas.

Q. Where should I put a composter or home digester?

A. Composters and digesters should be placed in a location that is easy to access year round, especially if you intend to harvest the finished product out of a composter.

Composters should be located in a well-drained, sunny area. Access to a water source to moisten material if it gets too dry would be advisable. More information on composters can be found [here](#).

Digesters can create a small amount of leachate, so they should be kept away from wells and lakeshores; they should also be kept away from septic beds, ponds, and wet areas since these water sources can disrupt the break down process by keeping material too wet. Digesters should be kept away from buried lines and cables to avoid accidental contact when digging. Digesters should be placed in an area that is in as much direct sunlight as possible. More information on digesters can be found at [here](#).

Q. Can I use compostable/biodegradable plastic bags to line a kitchen bin then dispose of the bagged compost in the Moloks?

A. Plastic bags of any kind (even those marketed as “biodegradable” or “compostable”) may NOT be put in the Molok bins as they cause significant disruption and slowing of the composting process. If you use plastic to transport compostable material, please dump the material in the Moloks and then place the plastic bag in the garbage. Unlined paper bags or a newsprint liner are alternatives that can be used and thrown into the Molok bins with the compost.

Q. How do I dispose of pet waste?

A. Pet waste and kitty litter can be placed in your clear garbage bag. The waste can either be put in the bag loose or placed in smaller, pet waste bags (“poop bags”) or litter pan liners. Please do not place pet waste in a home composter or digester.

Garbage FAQs

Q. What can go into the garbage?

A. Even with excellent recycling, composting, and removal of hazardous materials, there are still items that for one reason or another cannot be diverted out of the garbage at this time; some of these items include:

- Nearly all types of Styrofoam including cups, plates, or bowls, meat trays, egg cartons, clam shell food containers, packing peanuts, and structural Styrofoam. Styrofoam used in packaging (such as the shaped pieces that electronics are shipped in) should be dropped off at the **24-hr Recycling Depot at 400 Pido Road**.
- Soiled diapers, incontinence products, tooth brushes and tooth paste tubes, q-tips, some non-recyclable makeup containers and make-up removal pads and cloths, disposable shaving razors
- Box liners from cereal or cracker boxes, chip and cookie bags, candy/chocolate bar wrappers
- Pet waste including cat litter
- Dry, used mop heads, rags, paint brushes and rollers

- Bulky black plastic cannot be recycled at this time, this includes livestock feed tubs, tool set protective boxes, lunch boxes, and black plastic toy parts—**but black plastic food and beverage containers are recyclable.**
- Worn out footwear
- Soiled or moldy clothing or fabrics
- Vacuum bags
- Most pet food bags
- Broken glass, ceramics, plates, bowls (please wrap it appropriately and label it to alert the collection worker)
- Twine including plastic and sisal baler twine, net wrap*, and bale wrap* (see Switch Energy Corp in the next question for a disposal alternative)
- Elastics, twist ties, bag tabs/tags, tape
- Metallic or plastic wrapping paper and cellophane
- Thick film plastic such as vapour barrier
- Coffee pods, even those marketed as compostable

This list is not exhaustive. If you aren't sure where items should be disposed of, give us a call or consult the Searchable Waste Portal available at www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling

Q. Are there programs available for disposing of _____?

A. Yes, there are a multitude of programs available that help further divert unwanted items out of the garbage, the following is a limited list of programs we are currently aware of, please contact the program organizer for details.

- **Unwanted items, clothing, fabrics in good condition** can be donated to a number of charities; however not all charities accept clothing or fabric that is damaged. **Value Village** and the **Salvation Army** will accept clothing and fabric that is no longer wanted due to rips, worn patches, or stains (moldy or soiled clothing should be washed and dried before donating). A more complete list of items that Value Village accepts can be found at www.valuevillage.com/donate/what-we-take. Many **animal shelters** accept donations of used blankets, linens, and towels; please call your local shelter to determine what items they will accept.
- **Eyeglasses** may be donated to the Warsaw and District Lion's Club, collection locations include Foodland and the Village Pharmacy in Lakefield.
- **Medical sharps and needles** must be disposed of in approved containers from a pharmacy. Contact your pharmacy for details.
- **Scrap metal** can be brought to the Hall's Glen Transfer Station Metal bin or dropped off at any of the private roadside scrap metal bins that are available throughout the Township.
- **Wood** can be brought to the Hall's Glen Transfer Station Wood bin.
- **Tires, empty propane tanks, and batteries** can be brought to the Hall's Glen Transfer Station.
- **Styrofoam** used in packaging (such as the shaped pieces that electronics are shipped in) should be dropped off at the **24-hr Recycling Depot at 400 Pido Road.**
- **Household Hazardous Waste** can be disposed of at the Hall's Glen Transfer Station during special events. Used motor oil can be dropped off at this location year round; please do not mix other substances in with the motor oil, clean plastic jugs used to

transport the used oil may be placed in the bins adjacent the oil collection drum. Please ask the attendant at the Transfer Station for information.

- **Lawn furniture and other bulky plastic products** can be brought to the Hall's Glen Transfer Station Bulky Plastic bin from spring until the end of September. Bulky black plastic cannot be recycled at this time and should be placed in the garbage; **black plastic food and beverage containers are recyclable can go in the Blue box.**
- **Books** in good condition can be donated to the Douro-Dummer Public Library collection and to The Friends of the Douro-Dummer Public Library Book Sale. Books that are in poor condition can be recycled--remove the hard covers and recycle them separately.
- **Empty pesticide and seed bags and containers** may be eligible for return through **CleanFARMS**, www.cleanfarms.ca, please call 1-877-622-4460 ex 2227 for information. Drop off locations are available in Campbellford and Cavan.
- **Bale wrap, silage bags, mulch film, greenhouse film, pallet stretch wrap, boat wrap, and net wrap** is collected by **Switch Energy Corp.** Net wrap must be kept separate from bale wrap and silage bags. Farmers or organizations that deal with this waste can contact Switch Energy to create an account to have these items collected at the farm. Minimum amounts and a nominal user fee apply. Contact Don Nott for details 1-519-524-0193 or www.switchenergycorp.com.

This list is not exhaustive. If you know of other great ways to give used materials new life, please let us know!

If you have more questions please let us know!

You can visit us at the office Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The office is located at 894 South Street in the Hamlet of Warsaw.

You can call us at (705) 652-8392 or e-mail us at info@dourodummer.on.ca