

# IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

## Clear Bags for Garbage!

**As of March 1, 2009**, all users of the Mid Huron Landfill Site will be required to place their garbage in clear/transparent waste disposal bags. Disposal bags may be coloured as long as all contents are visible to landfill staff and curbside collection employees.

In 2011, the Mid Huron Landfill will be full and the municipalities using the site will have to ship their waste to another landfill site. The Mid Huron Landfill Site Board has been trying to extend the site's life and over the last few years has adopted a few new programs to do this and help protect the environment. Two of the programs are recycling/composting of yard, wood, and demolition waste and the recycling of electronic waste i.e. hard drives, monitors, TVs, etc. The clear bag program is just another such program.



The Mid Huron Landfill's current waste diversion rate is 20%. The Clear Waste Disposal Bag program makes recycling mandatory, increasing our rate of recycling and increasing the life of the landfill.

The other benefits of the clear bag program are the protection of environment, worker safety and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The environment is protected through the prevention of hazardous waste secretly entering the landfill contaminating the soil and groundwater. Recycling also saves natural resources such as wood, iron and ores, water, oil, etc. Worker safety is improved because both curbside collection/landfill employees can see what they are picking up preventing back injury and cuts from sharp objects. Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced because it takes more energy to create products from new material than to use recycled material.

### Did you know?

- You can make 20 cans out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make one new can.
- Five recycled 2L plastic bottles make enough fibre fill to stuff a ski jacket.
- Aluminum cans can be recycled over and over again.
- Glass never wears out - it can be recycled over and over again.
- Making paper from recycled material uses 60% less energy than making virgin paper.
- Making new steel products from recycled steel instead of virgin ore reduces water use by 40%, water pollution by 76%, air pollution by 86%, and mining wastes by 97%.
- One ton of recycled paper saves 3,700 pounds of lumber and 24,000 gallons of water.
- Recycling all of your home's waste newsprint, cardboard, glass, and metal can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 850 pounds a year.

### Who are the users of the Mid Huron Landfill?

Residents and businesses within the following Wards of these municipalities

- Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh – Colborne Ward
- Bluewater – Bayfield
- Central Huron – Clinton and Goderich Wards
- Huron East – Seaforth and Tuckersmith Wards
- Huron-Kinloss – Lucknow
- Town of Goderich

# **Clear Waste Disposal Bags - Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Why clear bags for garbage?**

We have switched to clear bags to prevent recyclables and hazardous waste from ending up in the landfill. People are still not participating in our recycling programs, even though they pay for the service through property taxes.

## **Where can I purchase clear bags? Do clear bags cost more than black bags?**

Local stores will carry clear bags (some already do) and larger retail stores have them in a variety of sizes. Certain brands are more expensive than others. Review your municipality's maximum bag size before you purchase your bags. The size is stated on your bag tag.

## **I currently use grocery bags or white kitchen catcher type bags for garbage? What will I do after March 1, 2009?**

You may continue to use grocery bags and white bags; however these smaller non-clear bags should be emptied and placed loose into the clear bag. Garbage in opaque or solid colour bags defeats the purpose of this initiative. You are permitted to use one 'privacy bag' (see below) in your larger clear bag. Some people may choose to use clear kitchen bags (available at some stores) that can be thrown right into the larger clear bag.

## **What is a 'privacy bag'?**

Out of consideration for people's privacy, one opaque or solid coloured 'privacy bag' full of garbage is allowed to be placed inside the larger clear bag. The privacy bag can no bigger than 20"x22", about the size of a grocery bag.

## **Does everyone have to use clear bags?**

Yes, at home and at work, for curbside collection and dumpster collection. Everyone must use clear garbage bags.

## **What do I do with all the black/green bags I have now?**

Save them for use during moves or for taking items to the secondhand store.

## **Can I still use clear bags for recyclables?**

Yes, but it is recommended you put your recyclables in a clear blue bag and use a clear bag or clear coloured (green, red, yellow, etc.) for your garbage. Remember that the contents of the bag must be visible to curbside collection and landfill staff.

## **What happens if I don't follow the rules?**

If you don't use clear bags or have recyclable/hazardous waste in your clear bag, your garbage will be left at the curb or turned away at landfill site. To help curbside collection run at its best, clearly separate your recycling bin/bag and your garbage bag and have your garbage tag facing out towards the road.

## **What about kitty litter, dog feces or pet feces with wood shavings?**

Place it loose within the clear garbage bag. If it is contained within a bag from a walk, etc. throw the baggy with contents into the large clear bag.

## **How do you dispose of wet/soiled paper products, milk containers, styrofoam food containers/dishes and packing material, full vacuum cleaner bags or waxed cardboard products?**

They are all garbage and should be put in your clear garbage bag.

## **What do you do with things such as used motor oil, leftover paint, pesticides and batteries?**

These items are all hazardous waste. The County provides 3 hazardous waste collection days each year. All hazardous waste should be properly stored until it can be disposed of on one of the County collection days. Empty dry paint cans can be put in the recycling bin, the lid must be removed.