

# Let's Be Clear

## Sorting Guide

In 2021, Selwyn Township launched a Clear Bag Program to have a positive impact on keeping recycling out of the landfill and protecting our environment.



If you have questions, please contact the Selwyn Township office:  
705-292-9507 or [publicworks@selwyntownship.ca](mailto:publicworks@selwyntownship.ca)

# Let's Get Started...

- Clear bags are now mandatory in Selwyn Township
- **For residential curbside pickup**, you are permitted two (2) clear garbage bags.
- **For commercial curbside pickup**, you are permitted four (4) clear garbage bags.
- Place recyclables into separate blue bins with containers in one and both papers and plastic bags in another.
- Place your clear garbage bags and recycling boxes at the curb by 7am on pick up day.

## DO NOT bag recyclables

For curbside recycling pickup, you are permitted as many blue bins as you require



Each container/clear bag can include one (1) grocery sized privacy bag.

Each container/clear bag cannot weigh more than 30 pounds (including privacy bag)



# Recyclables

The following recyclable items **MUST** be placed in Blue Boxes. All materials **MUST** be emptied, rinsed and loose.

## Blue Box #1 - Papers & Plastic Bags

### **Boxboard:**

- Drink & coffee trays
- Egg cartons
- Food boxes (e.g. granola bars, cereal)
- Shoe boxes
- Paper towel rolls/toilet paper rolls

### **Cardboard:**

- Corrugated boxes
- Clean Pizza boxes

### **Mixed Paper:**

- Computer paper & loose leaf
- Construction paper
- Envelopes
- Glossy paper
- Magazines & catalogues
- Newspapers & flyers (plastic delivery bags removed)

### **Plastic Bags:**

- Grocery, milk, bread bags, plastic bottle/can wrap, soil & water softener bags (with handles removed), and newspaper bags (place all bags in one tied bag and place with papers)

## Blue Box #2 - Containers

### **Paper Containers:**

- Coffee cups & take-out drink containers (lids and straws removed)
- Milk/juice cartons & boxes
- Cans (e.g. chips, nuts, frozen juice)

### **Plastic Containers:**

- Beverage containers (e.g. pop & water bottles, juice jugs, yogurt drinks)
- Food containers & bottles (e.g. mayonnaise, ketchup, peanut butter)
- Household cleaner bottles (e.g. glass cleaner, laundry detergent)
- Toiletry bottles (e.g. dish soap, shampoo, over-the-counter medication bottles)
- Plastic trays & clamshells (e.g. baked goods, fruit, sandwiches)
- Plastic tubs & lids (e.g. butter, sour cream, yogurt, ice cream tubs)

### **Metal containers:**

- Aluminum cans (e.g. pop)
- Disposable foil containers (e.g. pie plates & food trays)
- Steel & tin cans and lids (e.g. soup, tuna)
- Empty aerosol cans & empty paint cans
- Aluminum foil

### **Glass Containers:**

- Glass jars (e.g. jam, salsa, pickles)



For details, visit: [selwyntownship.ca/clearbag](http://selwyntownship.ca/clearbag)

# Garbage

Sometimes mistaken as recyclable, these items are considered to be garbage:

- Liners from cereal & cracker boxes
- Bottle caps
- Bubble envelopes/wrap
- Candy & granola bar wrappers
- Chip & snack bags
- Coffee pods (e.g. K-cups)
- Plastic cutlery
- Individual condiment packages
- Plastic wrap
- Coffee lids & straws
- Dirty paper napkins & paper towels
- Dirty tissues
- Wax paper

## Other garbage items:

- Diapers
- Food waste
- Kitty litter/pet waste
- Sharp objects (e.g. broken glass) in a puncture-proof container
- Styrofoam (e.g. meat trays & take-out containers)

**One Small Privacy Bag**  
(non-transparent) May Be  
Placed **Inside** Each  
**Clear Bag/Container**

## These items are garbage but there are other options for disposal:

- Soiled clothing, blankets & bed sheets (clean items should be recycled through donations or textile recycling)
- Ceramic dishes
- Broken Toys (plastic, wood, metal)
- Broken Laundry baskets & hampers
- Pet food bags (can be recycled at Village Pet Food & Supply locations)

**(See Our Donate Page)**

Collectors Have The Right To  
**Refuse Pick Up**

If Clear Bags/Containers  
Contain **More Than 10%**  
Recyclable Material



For details, visit: [selwyntownship.ca/clearbag](http://selwyntownship.ca/clearbag)

# Donate

**Before throwing away used household items and clothing, think about where they could be donated and re-used instead!**

Household items such as furniture, kitchen supplies, appliances, electronics, lighting, etc., in working condition can be donated to:

- The Salvation Army
- St. Vincent De Paul's (Vinnie's)
- Habitat for Humanity Re-Store
- Value Village
- Talize



Used clothing (not torn or stained) & accessories can be donated to:

- Selwyn Library's New-to-You Stores
  - Causeway Treasure Trove in Bridgenorth
  - Community Thrift Shop in Ennismore
  - Renewed Classics in Lakefield
- The Salvation Army
- St. Vincent De Paul's (Vinnie's)
- Value Village
- Talize
- Diabetes Canada bins

Re-usable building materials can also be donated to the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store. They may even pick it up for you!

# Other Ways to Divert

The following are examples of materials that can be disposed of separately from your garbage:

- Scrap Metal <sup>S</sup>
- Construction & Demolition Debris <sup>S</sup>
- Used Tires <sup>S</sup>
- Waste Electronics <sup>S P</sup>
- Used Batteries <sup>S P</sup>
- Household Hazardous Waste <sup>S (seasonal) P (year-round)</sup>
- Leaf & Yard Waste <sup>S P</sup>
- Textile Recycling <sup>P</sup>
- Bulky Styrofoam <sup>P</sup>

<sup>P</sup> = Pido Road

These diversion programs are available at the City of Peterborough's Material Recycling Facility (390 Pido Road, Peterborough).

<sup>S</sup> = Selwyn Landfill

These diversion programs are available at the Selwyn Township Landfill site (1480 County Road 18) year-round, unless noted otherwise.

**For details, visit: [selwylntownship.ca/clearbag](http://selwylntownship.ca/clearbag)**

# FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

## **What if there are items in my garbage I do not want other people to see?**

One (1) small “opaque privacy bag” can be placed inside each clear bag for personal items, such as sanitary products, diapers, incontinence products, pet waste, or other personal items. These opaque bags are similar in size to a grocery bag.

## **What if I use a container for curbside garbage?**

You can keep using your container, just make sure that there is no recycling in it. If you use opaque bags in a container, start using a clear bag. You can use an opaque bag (grocery-sized) for privacy items.

### **COVID-19- Novel Coronavirus:**

**Until further notice, the Township is asking that you please bag ALL garbage and DO NOT place waste loosely in garbage containers. Loose materials will NOT be collected. This small change helps protect collectors from the risk COVID-19.**

## **What do I do with my left-over opaque garbage bags?**

Any leftover opaque bags can be used for future clothing donations or donated to friends/family not in a jurisdiction requiring the use of clear bags.

## **What happens if I do not use a clear garbage bag?**

Starting 2021, clear garbage bags became mandatory in Selwyn Township. If an opaque bag is used it will not be picked up at the curb or accepted at the landfill. Remember you can still have your small opaque bag for privacy inside the clear bag.

## **What retailers sell clear garbage bags?**

Clear garbage bags may be purchased at most places that carry opaque bags. Local retailers that sell clear garbage bags can be found on our website.

## **Do clear plastic garbage bags cost more than traditional black plastic bags?**

Both clear and black plastic garbage bags are made from the identical materials but without colouring added, so the suggested retail price should be similar.

## **What if I have a special medical circumstance and need a larger privacy bag?**

We can accommodate special medical circumstances. Please contact the Selwyn Township Municipal Office at 705-292-9507.

**For details, visit: [selwyntownship.ca/clearbag](https://selwyntownship.ca/clearbag)**