



Issue 7: July 2008

No-Trace Camping

Camping trips are popular summer vacations, but your relaxing getaways can take their toll on the environment. Being on vacation doesn't mean taking a break from recycling and composting!

No-trace camping refers to the practice of leaving as little impact on the surrounding environment as possible. **If you pack it in, pack it out.** Take home all waste generated by your group. Plan ahead and bring designated bags to keep recyclables and garbage separate. Minimize organic waste by carefully planning your meals.

Remember, you are Mother Nature's visitor. When you visit a friend you wouldn't drop your garbage on the carpet, chop down trees from the yard or mark your name on the living room wall. The same courtesies apply when in the backcountry. With these no-trace camping guidelines you will be "walking lightly on the environment" and ensuring the pristine beauty of our natural world for years to come.

Recycle More at Home

Are you doing all you can to recycle at home? Waste audits by OVWRC found that common bathroom items such as empty toilet paper rolls and hygiene product boxes are frequently forgotten when it comes to household recycling. For example, 87% of used tissues and paper towels are ending up in the landfill despite the fact that they can be put in your Green Cart. The bathroom is a treasure grove of recyclable and compostable items which too often get buried in with the regular household garbage.

To make recycling easy, set up mini recycling containers in your bathroom which you can later empty into your Yellow Bin, Blue Box and Green Cart. In addition to the above mentioned paper products, some of the most common overlooked recyclable bathroom items are plastic shampoo and conditioner bottles, body wash and liquid soap bottles and hairspray, mouse and shaving cream aerosol canisters.

When it comes to protecting our environment every little bit helps. Recycling in the smallest room in the house is a big part of "working together to walk lightly on the environment".

Do You Know Where it Goes?

Some materials make us think twice before we throw them away. Is it Recyclable? Can it be Composted? Or is it Garbage?

Propane Tanks

Propane tanks of all sizes are considered hazardous waste. Residents can safely dispose of empty propane tanks by bringing them to the Hazardous or Special Waste Depot (HSW) or dropping them off at an HSW mobile event. [Click here](#) for a list of upcoming HSW Mobile Events.

Broken Camping Equipment

The majority of camping equipment such as folding chairs, tents, tarps and coolers are not recyclable. If your unwanted equipment can be reused, please consider selling it in a garage sale or giving it to charity. Otherwise, dispose of it with your regular garbage.

A Wealth of Information at Your Finger Tips

[Click here](#) to visit our website and see what's new. Be sure to visit often, as we are continually adding activities, educational downloads and updated information on our waste diversion programs and Centre policies.

The OVWRC E-Newsletter is published by the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre.

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