



NEWS RELEASE

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Recycle Right

OVWRC Reminds Residents to Check List of Recyclable Items

Pembroke, ON: Recycling rates continue to rise which also means the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre (OVWRC) is seeing an increasing amount of non-recyclable material mixed in with paper and container recyclables.

“Large amounts of non-recyclable material make hand sorting the recyclables a challenge,” comments Sue Campbell, General Manager of the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. **“It is also a health and safety hazard for our employees.”**

Non-recyclable items found on the Centre’s sorting lines have recently included diapers, kitty litter, non-recyclable plastics and even needles. It is important to remember that all materials set out for recycling are hand sorted prior to sale to end markets. This important job is a lot easier and safer when residents are extra careful to include only recyclable material in the blue boxes and yellow bins.

So how do you know if something is recyclable? The OVWRC produces various newsletters throughout the year reminding residents “What Goes Where”. Another useful tool is each Municipality’s collection calendar. The back of the calendars contain important information on what is acceptable in each waste stream. The Centre also has a detailed “What Goes Where” guide posted on the homepage of their website. If residents are still unsure of where an item should go, they are encouraged to call the OVWRC at 613-735-7537.

“It is important that residents refer to these tools to ensure they are recycling right,” continues Ms. Campbell. **“Check to see if the item belongs in your green cart or recycling. If it doesn’t, it’s more than likely regular garbage or hazardous waste.”**

And just because an item has a recycling symbol on it, doesn’t mean it is recyclable. **“Plastics that are recyclable include original food, beverage, personal and pet care plastic containers,”** states Ms. Campbell. **“Plant trays and pots, cling wrap, blister packs and plastic toys are just a few of the non acceptable plastic waste we are sorting out as waste materials.”**

Reducing contamination in recyclables also reduces operating costs. As Steve Bennett, Chairman of the Ottawa Valley Waste Management Board explains, **“High contamination makes the material less recyclable and also increases sorting costs during a time when revenues from the sale of recyclables has decreased significantly.”**

For more information on proper sorting please visit www.ovwrc.com.

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This document was produced by Communication Department staff at the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre.