

Watching Your Waste
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“Multiplying MOLOKs”

Have you noticed a change in the landscape of your community these days? I have noticed an increasing number of interesting looking containers popping up in public places and businesses. These dome shaped containers are called MOLOKs and they are one of the methods that communities and businesses are adopting to deal with their waste management needs.

MOLOKs are a waste collection system that uses an innovative European technology that is growing in popularity around North America and indeed, throughout the world. The technology was born out of the need to economize space in European cities and to better manage garbage, recycling and organics from businesses, public spaces and apartment buildings.

Don't be deceived about the capacity of the MOLOKs; 2/3 of the collection container is actually underground. Having the system in-ground has many benefits. It saves space because it eliminates the need for large above ground bins. It also holds more waste because the material is naturally compacted by gravity. The in-ground system also keeps the waste cool which reduces odors. The design of these containers includes domed lids which are resistant to animals and helps discourage illegal dumping. These containers also have environmental benefits including being made out of 100% recycled materials and they require less empties than a traditional above ground bin which reduces exhaust emissions. Furthermore, the molded plastic design of the underground container makes it leak-proof so there is no leaching of liquid material, making it a particularly attractive option for places in environmentally sensitive areas such as those close to waterways.

The MOLOKs are collected by a crane which hooks into the reusable collection bag that sits inside the MOLOK. In a matter of minutes the bag is lifted by the crane and emptied using a drawstring closure that opens the bottom of the bag and releases the material into a truck. The bag is then closed at the bottom and reinserted back into the MOLOK bin.

Many communities are finding that these are an ideal system for public spaces like recreation centres and parks. The MOLOKs are currently in use at Shady Nook Recreation Centre, Petawawa Civic Centre, the Petawawa Centennial Health Centre, the Waste Transfer Stations at Shaw Woods Road, Berndt Road and Lake Clear and throughout Highway 60 in Algonquin Park. Area businesses are also looking into installing MOLOKs as a progressive step toward their future waste management needs. If you think a MOLOK might be the next step in waste management for your organization, you can contact the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre for more information at 613-735-7537, ext. 216.

Pictures Attached:

Picture 1: MOLOK Cross-Section showing the reusable lifting bag and drawstring mechanism.

Picture 2: Resident using MOLOK bin at Petawawa Civic Centre to recycle plastic water bottle.

Picture 3: MOLOKs installed at Shady Nook Recreation Centre for garbage, container recyclables and organics.

