

All About Recycling Contamination

What is Recycling Contamination?

Contamination happens when recycling bins contain items that belong somewhere other than in the recycling.

Common Contaminants Found in Recycling

These include plastic bags or soft plastics, unrinsed items, styrofoam packaging, electronics, and glass.

What Causes Recycling Contamination?

- Improperly sorted items
- Items that are not clean (have food or liquid in them)
- Items held in plastic bags
- Items unable to be recycled in BC

Why is Recycling Contamination Bad?

- Entire loads of recycling may be sent to landfills if contamination levels are too high
- It can clog machines
- Hazardous contamination, glass, and food scraps pose threats to workers
- New products made from the recycling won't be as good of quality
- It can reduce the amount of items that get recycled and repurposed

How Can You Help Reduce Ladysmith's Recycling Contamination?

- Wash your containers
- Sort your items
- Do not use a plastic bag to hold your items in the recycling bin
- Check Recycle BC, the Town of Ladysmith website, Peerless Recycling Centre, and more, to know where your items belong

The Town’s Sustainability Program:

This summer we are excited to be launching our second year of the Town of Ladysmith’s Sustainability Program with the continued goal of engaging the community in water conservation and efficient recycling.

An important initiative for the program is reducing recycling contamination levels in the community through educational campaigns, audits, and improvement projects.

Watch the Town’s website, social media and e-newsletter for more information.

For More Information on Recycling Contamination Visit:

Town of Ladysmith Website:



Recycle BC:



Recyclepedia:

CVRD:



Recycling Infographics:

Peerless Road Recycling Centre



CVRD Recycling



Town of Ladysmith



