

Upcoming changes to business and resident waste collection start October 19

Changes are coming on October 19, 2020 to Regional curbside waste collection service in your area, and Niagara Region is working to support local businesses in making the transition.

The changes coming in October will affect properties differently depending on location, property type and if your local municipality has requested enhanced level of services above the base level of services provided by Niagara Region.

Properties Outside the Designated Business Areas (DBAs)

All single-family homes, multi-residential properties and Mixed-Use and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) properties **outside** DBAs using Regional curbside collection will move to every-other-week garbage collection, with adjusted bag/can limits. Blue/Grey Boxes/Carts and Green Bins/Carts will continue to be collected weekly.

Base service levels will include a new every-other-week limit of eight (8) garbage containers (bags or cans). This is a change from the current level of seven (7) garbage containers weekly; however, audits determined that the average IC&I property puts out 2.1 garbage bags/cans of garbage per week and Mixed-Use properties set out an average of 2.0 garbage cans/bags per collection per week.

In addition, an audit of waste diversion programs (recycling and organics) found they are underutilized by IC&I properties. For properties outside the DBAs, only 34% of IC&I properties and 62% of Mixed-Use properties recycle, while 11% of IC&I and 20% of Mixed-Use properties use the Green Bin/Cart. Niagara Region is looking to increase their usage by changing garbage container limits and moving to every other week garbage collection.

IC&I properties outside the DBAs have a combined limit of eight (8) Blue and Grey Carts and a limit of eight (8) Green Carts per week. Also, as of October 19, carts will be collected on the same day as the regular curbside collection of garbage, Blue/Grey Box and Green Bin in your area.

Properties Inside Designated Business Areas (DBAs)

The base level of collection services for Mixed-Use and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) properties **inside** Niagara's multiple DBAs are weekly collection of four (4) garbage containers (bags or cans) and weekly unlimited collection of Blue/Grey Boxes Carts and Green Bins/Carts; however, garbage limits and collection frequency may vary depending on, if, and what level of enhanced services purchased by individual local municipalities. Niagara Region has reached out to organizations representing businesses in each DBA to provide specific details on how that area will be affected.

In DBAs, audits results showed that 67% of IC&I and 62% of Mixed-Use properties receiving the base level of collection service participate in the Blue/Grey Box/Cart program. Utilization of the Green Bin/Cart program is much lower: just 14% of IC&I properties and 20% of Mixed-Use

properties use the program. Among those receiving enhanced collection, 61% of IC&I and 63% of Mixed-Use properties participate in recycling, while just 6% of IC&I and 8% of Mixed-Use properties participate in the Green Bin/Cart program.

To determine if your property is inside or outside of a DBA and the enhanced services selected by your local municipality, please visit www.niagararegion.ca/waste.

Much of what goes in the garbage in Niagara is actually food and organic waste which belong in the Green Bin.

“We are working to reduce the amount of recyclables and organic materials being sent to our landfills. It is important that businesses and residents both do our share to raise the amount of waste we are recycling and composting,” says Niagara Regional Chair Jim Bradley

Landfills are a significant source of emissions. Within a year of going to a landfill, food waste breaks down into methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times more damaging than CO₂. Landfills alone account for 20% of Canada’s methane emissions.

Property owners and businesses inside and outside DBAs will receive further notification this September/October with more details on the coming changes to curbside collection.

Please visit www.niagararegion.ca/waste for more details or to learn how to pick up Blue/Grey Boxes or Carts and Green Bins/Carts or call the Region’s Waste Info Line at 905-356-4141 or 1-800-594-5542 between Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

In addition, a new mobile app will be available mid September. Sign up today for service announcements and reminders and never miss a collection date.