

Municipality of Colchester - Solid Waste Resource Helpline

Frequently Asked Questions - Covid 19–NS State of Emergency

Are the solid waste facilities in Kemptown open to the public?

- No, the Solid Waste Management Park in Kemptown is closed to the general public at this time.

What is still operating at the Kemptown Solid Waste Facilities?

- The Balefill and Compost Facilities are operating Monday – Friday (8am to 4pm) under restricted access rules and only those who are licensed or have business accounts are permitted.

Why is the recycling facility closed?

- The facility has closed to ensure the safety of employees, their families and the public, and to remain compliant with provincial public health recommendations for social distancing during the Covid 19 pandemic. Social distancing could not be obtained during operations.

Are there any changes to curbside collection?

- No - there are no changes to regular curbside collection. All four streams are picked up as usual: six clear (one privacy) of garbage – twelve recycling bags – (blue bag paper/textiles – blue bag containers) – one green cart and two large bulky items.

If the recycling is being landfilled do, I have to continue to sort my waste and use blue bags?

- Yes, you must continue to sort your materials. The Municipality still has rules to follow and record data on all material types brought to the site for disposal and processing. Different materials have different tip fees and information needs to be accurate for annual reporting to Nova Scotia Environment and for the licensed haulers to report accurately for their customers.

Can I put everything in black bags during Covid 19 and put out as many as I want?

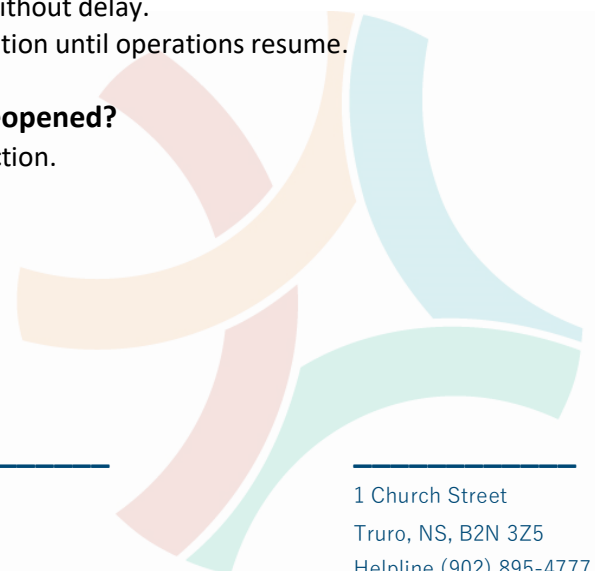
- No - there are no changes to regular curbside collection or for commercial, institutional and industry waste disposal. All garbage must be in clear bags. Residents are permitted one non see through bag for privacy items per household. All sorting rules are still in place.

What do I do with recyclables while the facility is closed?

- Continue to place recyclables curbside according to your collection schedule.
- Continue to sort as usual. Sorting is required as it ensures that once the facility is reopened, your material will be ready for recycling and will be processed without delay.
- You can also choose to safely store recyclables in a dry location until operations resume.

How many bags can I put out when the recycling facility is reopened?

- You will be allowed twelve bags of recycling bags per collection.



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Can recyclables be stored until the facility reopens?

- Large stockpiles of material inside a building can quickly become a safety concern, attract rodents and become a major fire hazard.
- Stockpiling material outside in the weather quickly cause it to become contaminated, unmarketable and creates litter.
- The municipality will landfill recyclables as a last resort.

Will there be a Spring Clean Up this year?

- The Spring Clean Up program has been changed this year to allowing two large items every garbage collection day instead.

Will there be a Compost Give Away this year?

- Compost Give Away has been suspended at this time. If you are interested in obtaining compost, please call our Helpline and we can provide you with a list of licensed haulers that can make arrangements with you for delivery.

Hauler's Available for Compost Delivery April 2020

Company	Contact	Email	Telephone
Kevin J MacDonald	Kevin MacDonald	kevinj.amandav@gmail.com	902-324-0803
Gary Perrin's Sanitation Ltd	Gary Perrin	gpdoubles@gmail.com	902-899-5034
CT Roofing and Construction	Corey Toole	ctroofingconstruction@gmail.com	902-324-0505

How can I get rid of waste from renovation materials from my projects at home?

- Contact the Helpline, to obtain a list of licensed haulers for hire to haul the materials for you.
- You can safely store materials until the site is opened once the social distancing restrictions are lifted.

How can I get rid of my extra leaf and yard waste?

- Residents of the Mun. Colchester can place three leaf and yard waste bags out every collection day.
- You can ask a neighbour if you could use their allotment if they are not.
- You can contact the Helpline, to obtain a list of licensed haulers for hire to haul the materials for you.
- You can store access materials until the site is opened to the general public once the social distancing restrictions are lifted.

Why is there no leaf and yard waste collection in the Town of Truro and what can I do to get rid of it?

- Under normal conditions, the Town of Truro would have additional staff hired to collect leaf and yard waste and bring it to their site for composting. Due to the restrictions during the state of emergency there is no staff available for collection and the drop off site is closed due social distancing and no congregating allowed.

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- You can contact the Helpline, to obtain a list of licensed haulers for hire to haul the materials for you.
- You can store access materials until the drop off site is opened to the general public.

Are there any measures we can do to help reduce the spread of COVID-19?

- Observe social-distancing guidelines (2 meters/6 feet) established by Public Health when a collection driver is on your property.
- Wipe the handles of your garbage cans or green carts with a disinfectant between uses (pre and post collection).
- Follow proper hand-washing guidelines when handling any waste material, garbage cans or green carts.
- It is very important that any material used while sick, like tissues, masks, disinfecting wipes, disposable gloves and bathroom products (i.e. hygiene products, diapers) go in the regular clear garbage bag and that the bag is securely tied for collection.
- Only place carts or bagged materials out when necessary (if your cart is less than half full, consider waiting for your next scheduled collection).
- Garbage and recyclables must be in bags that are tightly tied for collection.

What can I do with waste that is not collected curbside?

- Disposal of materials such as electronics, batteries, household hazardous waste, CFL lights, paints, etc. should be held at home until depots are open to receive them.

What can I do with clothing donations?

- Many organizations that collect textile and household item donations have temporarily suspended collection. This includes many thrift stores.
- If you're looking to donate, please call ahead first. Do NOT leave items in or beside a bin.
- Please hold on to donations and keep these organizations in mind once collection has resumed.
- Contact information for some organizations:
 - Colchester Workshop, 168 Arthur Street, Truro 902-893-7228
 - Salvation Army, 14 Outram Street, Truro 902-893-3042
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters - www.halifax.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca or 902-454-4025
 - Diabetes Canada - www.diabetes.ca/declutter or 1-800-505-5525
 - Salvation Army - www.thriftstore.ca or 902-430-6179

What can I do with my insulin needles?

- NEVER place any sharps in with your garbage, compost or your recycling material.
- Most pharmacies are experiencing a shortage of safe sharps disposal containers for their patients.
- As a temporary measure, they are directing patients to place their sharps in a rigid plastic container (such as a laundry detergent bottle), stored at home, and clearly marked 'SHARPS'.
- Alternate containers will be accepted for proper disposal after the COVID-19 pandemic.

