



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the *Sort It - Central* program?**

**Sort It - Central** is a new mandatory waste management program that requires everyone in Central Newfoundland to properly sort their waste into two streams, using transparent blue bags for recyclables and clear bags for garbage. The program enhances current collection services by providing residents, industry, businesses and institutions with a solution for recycling mixed containers and paper fibre, while increasing the amount of waste diverted from the landfill. This means that residents can now sort their recyclables and conveniently place them at the curb or roadside as part of their regular waste collection services. Businesses can contact their waste collector to ensure services include collection of recyclables.

### **When will the program begin?**

The program begins March 2, 2015, at which time everyone in Central Newfoundland is required to sort their waste into two streams, using transparent blue bags for recyclables and clear bags for garbage.

### **What is the benefit of the *Sort It - Central* program?**

The **Sort It - Central** program will help us achieve our 50 per cent waste diversion goal by increasing the amount of recyclables and hazardous waste that we divert from our landfill. When everyone does their part to reduce, reuse and recycle, we generate less garbage, which reduces operating costs for managing waste and also extends the life of the landfill. In addition, by using a product to its fullest extent we reduce the need to both harvest new raw materials and manufacture new products, which in turn conserves natural resources, saves energy and reduces pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Why are clear bags mandatory for garbage?**

Central Newfoundland Waste Management requires mandatory use of clear bags for garbage disposal to help increase diversion of recyclables and hazardous materials from the landfill. Clear bags also improve safety for our collectors by enabling them to see contents in the bag such as broken glass, needles and other sharp items that can potentially cause injuries. We are proud to take a leadership role as the first region in the province to implement a progressive and sustainable waste management program that requires everyone do their part to protect the environment by properly sorting their waste, using clear garbage bags and transparent blue recycling bags.





**How will privacy issues be addressed?**

Two small opaque bags of any colour (such as grocery bags) can be placed inside a clear bag to accommodate privacy needs. Any additional waste must be in a clear bag. Clear bags may also be placed in garbage cans or boxes for privacy and to secure waste from scavenging and animals – check with your local municipality or Local Service District Committee for regulations in your community. Any personal paper documents with addresses or other identifying information should always be shredded and then placed in a transparent blue bag with recyclables.

**Where do I get clear garbage bags and transparent blue recycling bags?**

Local retailers throughout the central region will be stocking shelves with transparent blue recycling bags and clear garbage bags (in both large and kitchen catcher sizes). If retailers in your area do not currently supply clear garbage bags or transparent blue recycling bags, Central Newfoundland Waste Management will continue to accept black bags until clear garbage and transparent blue recycling bags are available for purchase.

**Can I still use white grocery or kitchen catcher type bags?**

As part of the **Sort It - Central** program you can use kitchen catcher type bags that are clear if they are placed inside a clear regular size garbage bag (66 cm x 82.5 cm / 26 in x 32.5 in). Two small opaque bags of any colour (such as grocery bags) can be used as privacy bags and placed inside a clear garbage bag.

**What do I do with the black/green bags that I have now?**

We recommend using leftover black and green bags for storage or when returning your beverage containers to the local Green Depot. They can also be donated to local charities and churches that have many opportunities to reuse them (clothing storage and shipping, etc.).

**Is there a bag limit for curb/roadside collection?**

Contact your municipality or Local Service District Committee for details on bag limits. In addition, garbage and recycling bags must be regular size: 66 cm x 82.5 cm / 26 inches x 32.5 inches, and each bag must not weigh more than 22kg/50 lbs.

**Will household collection schedules change with the launch of the Sort It - Central program?**

Recyclables and garbage will be collected weekly. Visit [www.cnwmc.com](http://www.cnwmc.com) to confirm your schedule online, or contact your municipality or Local Service District Committee for collection routes and schedules.

**What do I do with waste such as cat litter and diapers?**

Cat litter and diapers can be placed inside a clear kitchen catcher type bag or an opaque privacy bag and then placed inside a clear garbage bag.





**How should I dispose of objects with sharp edges?**

Sharp objects such as broken glass, needles and knives should be put inside a puncture-proof container and then placed inside a clear garbage bag.

**What do I do with hazardous waste?**

Hazardous waste is not accepted at the curb or roadside. Residents can dispose of household hazardous waste at a transfer station or the Central Regional Waste Management Site. Businesses must contact a waste collector for proper disposal of hazardous materials.

**How can I dispose of organic waste?**

Residents and businesses can reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by composting organic waste in a backyard compost bin or by participating in a community composting program. Visit [www.mmsb.nl.ca](http://www.mmsb.nl.ca) for more information.

**What happens to residents who don't participate in the *Sort It - Central* program?**

Our priority is to encourage everyone to participate in the *Sort It - Central* program and we understand there will be a period of transition as the program launches. We know that public education is critical to achieving success and we have developed a comprehensive plan to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn how to properly sort their waste as well as the flexibility to implement appropriate waste diversion infrastructure, where required.

Overtime, households that are not compliant with the *Sort It - Central* program may have their waste rejected. A sticker will be placed on rejected material to identify the issue, which must be remedied by the resident before placing at the curb or roadside for pick up during the next weekly collection period.

