

IMPORTANT NOTICE!



CLEAR BAG PROGRAM FOR GARBAGE MUNICIPALITY OF BROCKTON

Start Date: January 1st, 2010 operating on a **voluntary** basis and **mandatory** effective July 1st, 2010.

Residents will have a six month grace period to adjust to the change. This is an opportunity to use up your opaque or solid coloured garbage bags (green/black/orange) as they will no longer be acceptable as of July 1st, 2010. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the voluntary participation phase prior to the full compliance deadline. This transition phase will help to clarify any questions or uncertainties you may have with the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a clear bag?

It is a plastic waste disposal bag that is completely transparent and colourless.

Why change to clear bags for garbage?

The Municipality of Brockton has joined the growing number of communities in Ontario and across Canada that have decided to implement clear bags for garbage in order to ensure that recyclable materials and/or hazardous waste are not disposed of in landfill. Merits include:

- Ensures greater compliance with existing diversion programs
- Supports enforcement of mandatory recycling by-law and landfill disposal bans by facilitating monitoring
- Preserves landfill space/capacity and integrity
- Health & Safety benefits for collection personnel

Together let's make Brockton a leader in waste diversion → the more you recycle, the less garbage you'll generate, the less trash ends up in landfill. Recycling saves resources and reduces energy consumption.

Are bag tags still required?

Yes, the Municipality of Brockton bag tags are still required to be affixed to the top of the clear bag.

Where can I buy clear bags?

Retailers have been informed of the new requirement and an assortment of clear bag sizes including smaller kitchen catcher size (20" x 22") bags and larger standard size (26" x 36") bags will be available soon for purchase at most local grocery, home building and department stores. Please note that clear kitchen catcher size bags may be placed directly inside the larger clear standard size disposal bag.

What do I do if I use grocery bags or white kitchen catcher bags for garbage?

These smaller non-clear bags should be emptied and placed loose into the clear bag. No opaque bag (of any size) full of garbage is permitted to be placed inside the clear bag because this defeats the purpose of the initiative. The only exception is the 'privacy bag' noted below.

What is a 'privacy bag'?

To address transparency concerns regarding personal items related to health/hygiene waste, one solid colour 'privacy bag' no larger than 20" x 22" (approximately the size of a kitchen catcher or grocery bag) **per** clear bag will be acceptable. (You can also choose to set out your garbage at the curb in a clear bag stored inside your trash can).

What will happen after the voluntary period if I don't participate?

Effective July 1st, 2010 non-compliant bags will be left at the curbside and will not be accepted at the landfill. This includes using non-clear bags and clear bags that contain Blue Box recyclables and/or banned materials from landfill (household hazardous waste, electronic waste, leaf & yard waste). If your waste is not collected, a sticker indicating the reason why will be attached to the bag.

How should I dispose of kitty litter and/or pet waste?

Place within the appropriate size clear bag. If pet waste is contained within an opaque baggy (e.g., from a walk) place baggy with contents into the 'privacy bag.'

Points to remember:

- The clear plastic bag for curbside collection should be a standard size bag (26" x 36")
- The maximum weight per bag for curbside garbage collection is 40 pounds (18 kg)

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Please plan to attend:

Public Information Session: Clear Bag Program For Garbage

Date: Wednesday, March 24th, 2010

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Victoria Jubilee Hall

Reception Room

111 Jackson Street, S., Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

Please continue to visit the Municipal website at www.brockton.ca for additional information.