

# Waste Diversion Update

Spring 2023



## FEATURED IN THIS EDITION:

Cash in or Give to Avoid Waste During Spring Cleanups

Household Hazardous Waste

Spring Yard Tips!

## CASH IN OR GIVE DURING SPRING CLEANUPS

### THREE STEPS TO PREVENT WASTE

Spring is a popular time for clearing out unwanted items at home. With a little planning, the process can be a great way to raise some extra cash or enjoy the experience of giving lightly or unused items a new home. All with the benefits of conserving resources and preventing waste!

#### Step 1: Use Increasing Options for Reuse

There are now more options than ever for giving your extra items a new lease on life. Donating to thrift stores or hosting a garage sale have been longtime popular options. You can find local thrift stores and donation options on the [RDNO What Goes Where webpage](#), search “reusable” on RCBC Recyclepedia or search your local listings for “thrift stores”. Unsure if a thrift store will accept what you have? A good idea is to give them a quick call or see if they have a list of acceptable items on their website. This can help avoid burdening these busy shops with unsellable items. A good rule of thumb when donating is to consider: “would someone actually pay money for what I am donating?”.



Another great option to consider is online marketplaces such as Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist or Kijiji. These options are increasing in popularity and you may be surprised by just how quickly you may find someone in your community who will take your items off your hands for a good deal. Consumer Protection BC has tips to stay safe when buying or selling online: <https://www.consumerprotectionbc.ca/2022/10/tips-to-stay-safe-when-buying-or-selling-online/>

Community giving and receiving are an increasing trend that has evolved from the online marketplace. Groups such as ones facilitated through the [Buy Nothing Project](#) and [Mamas for Mamas](#) are popping up across the country and are now in the North Okanagan! Not only are group members encouraged to give away their quality surplus items but to also consider and request items they may need to help facilitate even more community sharing.

## Step 2: Recycle at Local Bottle Depots

After looking at reuse options for your unwanted items the next step is to move on to the next “R”, Recycle. A great place to start is your local bottle depot, they often accept a wide range of recyclables such as electronics, lightbulbs, packaging (including bags and styrofoam) and much more at no cost. Find local options and items they accept at: [www.rdno.ca/whatgoeswhere](http://www.rdno.ca/whatgoeswhere).

One highlight of a trip to the bottle depot is the cash you will get back from your beverage containers. With deposit refunds now at 10 cents per container, it doesn't take much before you've got a satisfying refund to make your trip really worthwhile. With so many products covered by provincial recycling programs at these depots there is often little left for the garbage.



Organizing your recyclables will help keep things tidy and make your trip to the depot easier. Search online for "organize your recyclables" to find creative and attractive options such as these pictured at [www.diycrafts.com](http://www.diycrafts.com).

### Step 3: Divert at RDNO Diversion & Disposal Facilities: Sort, Separate and \$ave

Still have items remaining? RDNO Diversion & Disposal Facilities can be a good option for certain items that have limited or no recycling options elsewhere. These items include separated construction and demolition materials (like wood or concrete), scrap metal, propane tanks, large appliances and yard waste. Some items like yard waste, large appliances and propane tanks are accepted for no charge, whereas others such as wood and scrap metal are accepted at rates lower than the garbage rate, so sorting and separating your divertible items will \$ave you money. Find more information on items accepted and fees at [www.rdno.ca/ddf-fees](http://www.rdno.ca/ddf-fees).

### Bonus Step: Reduce and Reuse to Save Time and Money

Of course there is one way to make things simpler and avoid all the work of a future spring cleanout. That is to avoid excess unwanted items by ReTHINKING shopping and considering if you really need more stuff. Sometimes the best purchase decisions are to hold off and make more space for the important things in life. When you do get the urge to shop, buying used can be a very fun and low impact solution.

## RDNO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

PLEASE DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY TO PROTECT WATER AND ANIMALS



Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any household product that contains corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive components that have the potential to harm human health or the environment. When incorrectly disposed, HHW is harmful to people, pets, wildlife and our water. HHW should not go down drains or storm sewers, on the ground, or into the garbage. Municipal sewage systems and private septic systems do not filter or remove all of these products from our waste water so if improperly disposed HHW can result in hazardous substances in our waterways.

To provide residents with a safe and responsible disposal option for their HHW the RDNO provides a comprehensive year round HHW program at Interior Freight & Bottle located at 4205 24 Avenue in Vernon. The program is available for residential quantities only, so large quantities and commercial products are not accepted. An acceptable amount for one resident to bring at a time is one banker box. A private hazardous waste disposal company should be contacted for commercial and large quantities of hazardous waste.

There are also provincial extended producer responsibility programs for a number of HHW materials including household paint, flammable liquids, select pesticides, motor oil and antifreeze that offer additional drop off options. These materials are accepted at participating depots and retailers which can be found by searching RCBC Recyclepedia at [www.rdno.ca/whatgoeswhere](http://www.rdno.ca/whatgoeswhere).

More information on how to safely store and handle HHW can be found at [www.rdno.ca/hhw](http://www.rdno.ca/hhw). Resources on this webpage include the Recycling Council of BC's Toxic Toolkit that provides helpful options on safer

alternatives to HHW. The best solution to HHW is to avoid purchasing harmful and dangerous chemicals whenever possible!

## SPRING YARD TIPS

### GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR LEAVES AND TRIMMINGS THIS SPRING

After last Fall's early snowfall covered our yards, many of us are finding more leaves on the ground this Spring. A term growing in popularity is "Leave the Leaves!". According to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, leaving leaves on the ground until the temperature warms up can be great for pollinators. With a few chilly nights ahead of us, this is a great opportunity to hold off on another to-do list item and let nature go to work!



Leaves can provide many benefits for your garden.

Leaves on the ground are also great for your soil. As you are probably seeing, leaves break down quite readily, improve your soil, and also suppress weeds. More organic matter in the soil will also help retain water and reduce the need for watering in the summer. Extra leaves are also very handy for putting aside if you do backyard composting. Leaves are a great source of carbon for covering up food scraps which will balance nutrients and mitigate odors. Find more on these leafy benefits with composting factsheets at: [www.rdno.ca/composting](http://www.rdno.ca/composting).

Another great item to hang onto in the yard is grass clippings. The practice of simply mowing and leaving the grass on the lawn is called Grasscycling. Allowing grass clippings to break down in your lawn will help feed your lawn by recycling nutrients and adding organic matter to your soil. This will help you avoid fertilizers, reduce watering needs, and save fuel from hauling your clippings. The more you Grasscycle the healthier your lawn can get and the quicker grass clippings will break down. Find out more on Grasscycling at [www.rdno.ca/grasscycle](http://www.rdno.ca/grasscycle).



Grasscycling will save you time and reduce needs for fertilizing and watering. Image from gardeningknowhow.com

Making good use of small trimmings, leaves and grass will help you keep nutrients and organic matter in your yard, which will improve the health of your plants. Doing this will also save you work and perhaps some trips to haul yard waste to a Diversion & Disposal Facility (DDF).

Sometimes a trip to a DDF is needed for larger trimmings and branches which don't readily breakdown in your yard. The Free Yard Waste Drop Off at RDNO DDFs is a great option for this! Find out more about what is accepted at: [www.rdno.ca/organics/free-yard-garden-waste-drop](http://www.rdno.ca/organics/free-yard-garden-waste-drop). During your trip consider picking up some RDNO-Gro Compost which is available at the GVDDF year round. Residents can load their vehicles with RDNO-Gro at no charge. It makes a great addition as a surface mulch and for adding more organic matter to your soil which is great for reducing watering needs. Find more information at: [www.rdno.ca/gro](http://www.rdno.ca/gro).