

Big Blue Bin Program

Did you know that ...

There are 20 Big Blue Bin containers in operation and they are emptied over 2000 times each year from Monday to Saturday.

Several larger Big Blue Bin sites are emptied between 25-30 times each and every per month.

The Big Blue Bins collect about 5400 tonnes of paper and cardboard material each year.

The recycled Big Blue Bin paper saves the equivalent of about 88,000 trees each year.

The Big Blue Bin paper is recycled into about 80 million egg cartons and fruit flats annually.

About 25 percent of solid waste from a typical Regina household is paper and cardboard.

Unfolded cardboard fills up the space in the Big Blue Bins – this costs extra money.

The major shopping malls provide space free of charge to the Big Blue Bin and the Paint It Recycled programs.

Leaving your paper inside plastic bags is a major problem in the recycling of the paper.

Only about 10 percent of junk mail is placed in a Big Blue Bin to be recycled – the rest becomes garbage.

The Big Blue Bins are usually inspected Monday to Saturday for cleanliness and litter.

The Big Blue Bins are intended for residential paper.

Each Big Blue Bin has been designed to be wheel chair accessible.

Monday afternoon and evening is usually the best time to visit a Big Blue Bin.

Paint It Recycled Program

Did you know that ...

Paint It Recycled has accepted over 250,000 litres (54,000 gallons) of waste paint since 1993.

In 2003 the City of Regina and SaskTel diverted 35,250 litres of waste residential paint at a total cost of \$55,542 – SaskTel donated \$10,000 to assist.

The program is only for Regina residential households – no commercial contractors.

Under the Solid Waste Bylaw, paint cannot be placed in the garbage or taken to the Landfill.

In 2003 Regina residents accounted for 68 percent of the provincial total of paint collected.

Latex paint can be damaged by being frozen – so please protect your latex paint.

About 85 percent of the collected paint is damaged and cannot be re-used.

The re-useable paint is donated to humane societies, inner city groups, youth groups and children's camps who work at a paint day.

Damaged latex paint can be hardened at home using an environmentally safe latex paint hardener – ask your retail paint store about it.

There are six (6) Paint It Recycled collection events staged at neighbourhood shopping centre locations throughout the Regina each year.

The oil-based paint is currently processed to be re-used as low grade heating fuel and the empty metal paint cans are recycled at IPSCO.

You should carefully buy what you need, then pass on remaining good paint to a friend to be re-used.

Tinsel Mulch Program

Did you know that ...

The Tinsel Mulch Program involves the residential collection, shredding into mulch, partial composting and then the annual public distribution of discarded natural Christmas trees.

In 2004 Tinsel Mulch serviced over 55,000 households to collect approximately 9600 Christmas trees.

Natural Christmas trees are a renewable resource and remove carbon dioxide from the air and offset global warming.

Less than 15 percent of Regina households still use a natural tree at Christmas.

The Tinsel Mulch program has operated since 1991 to divert organic material tree material from the Regina Landfill.

It is a special collection and separate from your regular solid waste collection.

It covers all the main residential areas [streets and alleys] of the city between mid-January and late February of each year.

Homeowners can reduce collection costs by leaving their tree in the same location as their solid waste – and remember we only come once for the tree. Also, to improve the quality of the mulch, **please remove the plastic bag and any decorations.**

The Forestry Division now provides wood chips from the city-wide pruning of maple, ash and poplar trees. Elm wood chips are burned to prevent the spread of Dutch Elm disease.

Backyard Composting Program

Did you know that ...

Backyard Composting is a simple, natural and organic way to help reduce the amount of garbage your household sends to the Regina landfill and helps the environment.

Composting can reduce your food and yard-waste garbage generation by up to 50%.

Composting is simple and easy if you follow a few basic guidelines - the City of Regina offers several free classes on composting every year – and special group or office classes can be presented upon request.

Compost is basically an incubator that creates an ideal home for bacteria and fungi. The result of compost is a rich soil conditioner great for gardens, flowerbeds or lawns.

The City also has free copies of *"Your Guide to Composting"* at City Hall and most libraries.

Cedar compost bins can be purchased by calling Regina Area Girl Guides at 352-8057.

To date the program has sponsored the training of 50 Master Composters, who are involved in the volunteer teaching composting classes.

"Composting on the Prairies" videos from the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council are available at all Regina Public Library locations.

The number of City solid waste collection staff have been reduced from 135 to 19 persons over the past several years – yard waste and double the workload of staff in the summer.

Free composting classes, check the City web site www.regina.ca for updates or call 777-7000 for more information.

Vermicomposting Program

Did you know that ...

Vermicomposting uses worms to compost food materials - this allows you to compost indoors year-around.

It is clean, odour free and can be done in a small compost bin in your kitchen, classroom, or office.

The worms normally used for vermicomposting are called *red wigglers* and they differ from earthworms in your garden since they thrive at room temperature and can eat half of their body weight in food scraps every day.

To start a vermicompost bin you need: Worms: One to two pounds. A plastic "Rubbermaid" bin: 30-cm high, 40 x 60 cm. Drill holes in the lid to allow for air circulation. Bedding material: Shredded newspaper or peatmoss is needed in the bin to facilitate air circulation, keep the compost moist and to cover food scrap.

The worms only need to be fed once or twice a week. Worm food includes: fruit and vegetable scrap, bread, pasta, rice, teabags, coffee grounds and eggshells. Never put meat, dairy or greasy foods into your bin.

Regina Master Composter volunteers can show you how to set and operate a vermicomposting bin in your home, office or classroom.



PAINT IT RECYCLED DAYS

Sat. – May 15 th	Home Dept
Sat. – June 19 th	Northgate Mall
Sat. – Aug. 14 th	Southland Mall
Sat. – Sept. 18 th	Sherwood Mall
Sat. – Oct. 16 th	Home Depot

BACKYARD COMPOSTING CLASSES

Wed. – Sept. 1 st	City Hall Forum
Wed. – Sept. 8 th	City Hall Forum
Wed. – Sept. 15 th	City Hall Forum
Wed. – Sept. 22 nd	City Hall Forum

Waste Minimization Programs

call 777-7000 or visit our website at www.regina.ca