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Metro Vancouver Disposal Bans

Metro Vancouver bans the disposal of materials that are readily recyclable or operationally hazardous. The region has a long history of increasing waste diversion through bans at regional solid waste facilities. A ban on corrugated cardboard was first introduced in 1997 and materials were added over time, including food scraps and clean wood in 2015. A disposal ban on expanded polystyrene (foam) packaging was introduced in 2018.

A complete list of disposal ban materials is available at www.metrovancover.org by searching “banned materials”. Here is a partial list:

- Cardboard, mixed paper & newsprint
- Clean wood
- Creosote treated wood including railway ties
- Electronics
- Expanded polystyrene packaging
- Food scraps
- Household appliances
- Mattresses
- Motor oil, tires, batteries & automobile parts & bodies
- Recyclable containers
- Toxic plants
- Yard trimmings

Disposal bans are enforced at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities. When a waste hauler brings a load of garbage into a facility, the load is inspected for banned materials that shouldn't be in the garbage, and the hauler can be subject to a financial penalty. A \$73 minimum surcharge, plus potentially any costs incurred for removal, clean-up or remediation, is applied to loads containing banned hazardous and operational impact materials or product stewardship materials. A surcharge of 50% of the tipping fee on the entire load is applied to loads containing banned recyclable materials such as corrugated cardboard, organics and clean wood. Loads containing over 20% expanded polystyrene are subject to a 100% surcharge due to its light weight.

It is important for residents and businesses to separate recyclables from garbage. For recycling and composting options, speak to your waste services provider or visit www.metrovancoverrecycles.org for a list of recycling locations.

Yours truly,



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