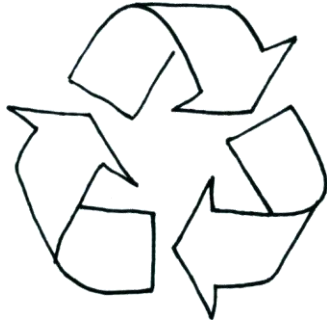


A Very Brief Guide to



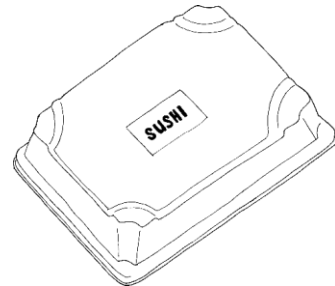
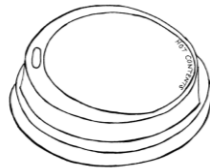
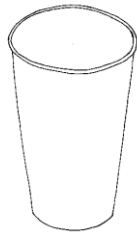
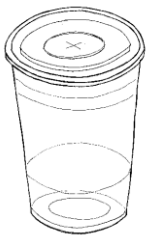
Recycling in Vancouver

Or, Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Recycling (But Were Afraid to Ask)

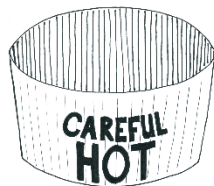
- **Recycle BC** runs the City of Vancouver's recycling program
- **GFL Environmental** provides curbside pick-up for houses
- **Waste Management** services multi-family dwellings (5 units or more)

Recycling – the following items can be put out for curbside pick-up:

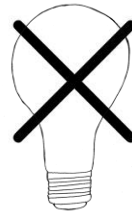
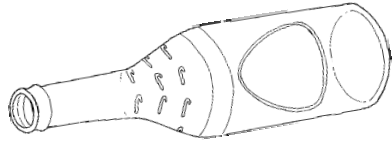
Mixed Containers include most plastic containers, cartons and paper cups (including rinsed paper to-go cups and lids), aluminum, and steel containers. Don't forget you can return many glass bottles, Tetra Paks and aluminum cans for a deposit.



Paper, Packaging and Cardboard include most paper and cardboard products such as boxes, cereal packages, and newspaper, but **NOT** composite packaging products such as plastic-lined paper, to-go cups, waxy cardboard, tissue paper, books, and soiled items such as pizza boxes.

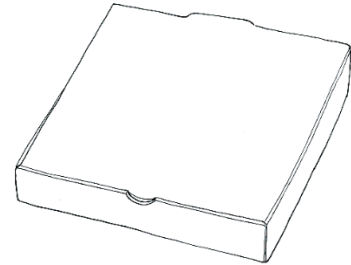
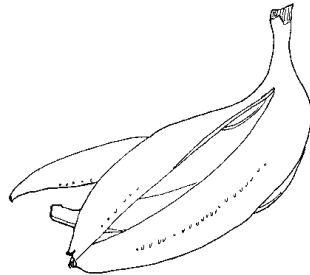
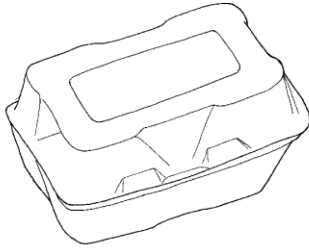


Glass Bottles and Jars – sauce and jam jars fit into this category but drinking glasses, broken glass, ceramics, and light bulbs do not - and remember that any bottles with a deposit can be returned to a depot or retailer for a refund.



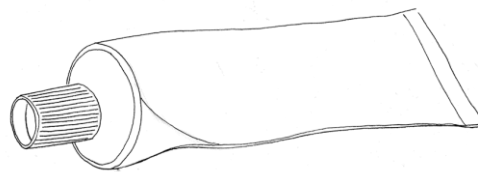
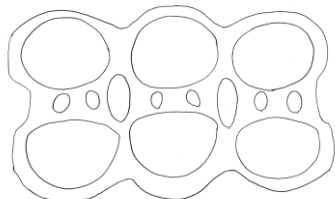
Organics and Garbage are managed by the City and these items can be placed in your green bin or garbage for curbside pick-up:

Food Scraps include unprocessed food waste such as egg shells, fruit peels etc. as well as small amounts of cooked/processed foods such as bones, noodles, bread, cooking oil and tea bags. Soiled paper products such as tissues, pizza boxes, parchment paper, and paper compost liners can also be disposed of here. Please note that compostable and biodegradable bags **CANNOT** be used in City of Vancouver managed green bins.



Yard Trimmings include grass, leaves, branches and other plant waste, as well as clean unfinished wood, but not sod, soil, or manufactured wood products.

Garbage – There are still some items that cannot (yet) be recycled or repurposed. These include plastic squeeze tubes, plastic-lined paper, plastic strapping, 6-pack rings (remember to cut them up), biodegradable or oxo plastics, PVC/vinyl, and squishy foam.



Note: Pick-up service providers differ for businesses and other institutions. Sorting methods depend on the hauler. At ECU, waste streams are sorted as follows: Organics, Mixed Recycling (which is sorted at the transfer station using a conveyor system), Paper/Cardboard, Metal, Appliances, Furniture (separated into fabric and non fabric) and Hazardous Waste (light bulbs, paint, etc.)

Recycling During COVID

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, Recycle BC encourages patrons to download the [Recycle BC app](#) to stay aware of service delays and disruptions. Contact your local recycling depot to make sure they are open before dropping off recyclables. You can also sign up for [Return-It Express](#), a low contact quick drop service which lets you bring in your unsorted containers in sealed, clear plastic bags. Please note that London Drugs is currently limiting intake to one bag per recycling category per visit. Finally, the City of Vancouver asks that all PPE and other sanitary items are bagged before being placed in garbage bins. They also ask people not to dispose of PPE in toilets or on the street as masks, gloves, wipes, and other items pollute streams and oceans, and damage sewage treatment equipment and septic systems.

Recycling Facilities

Items not included in the curbside program can be dropped off at recycling depots, transfer stations, and Recycle BC partner London Drugs. These include:

Soft Plastics – grocery bags, bread bags, produce bags, and outer packaging.

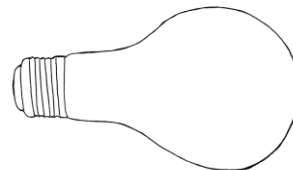
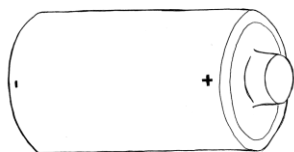


Other Flexible Plastic Packaging or OFPPs – rinsed zipper pouches such as rice, oat, or frozen fruit packages; crinkly wrappers and bags such as chip and cookie packages; seals like those on meat, cheese and yogurt containers; woven and net plastic bags; and packaging such as bubble wrap, plastic shipping envelopes, shrink wrap and plastic with resin codes 2,3, or 4.



To determine if plastic is soft or flexible, try to poke your finger through it. If the plastic stretches, it is soft, if it does not, then it is flexible.

Common Household Items - electronics, light bulbs, batteries, small appliances, and Brita Filters can also be returned to London Drugs and various recycling depots. Several local organizations can also recycle or restore old electronics. See the list/map below.

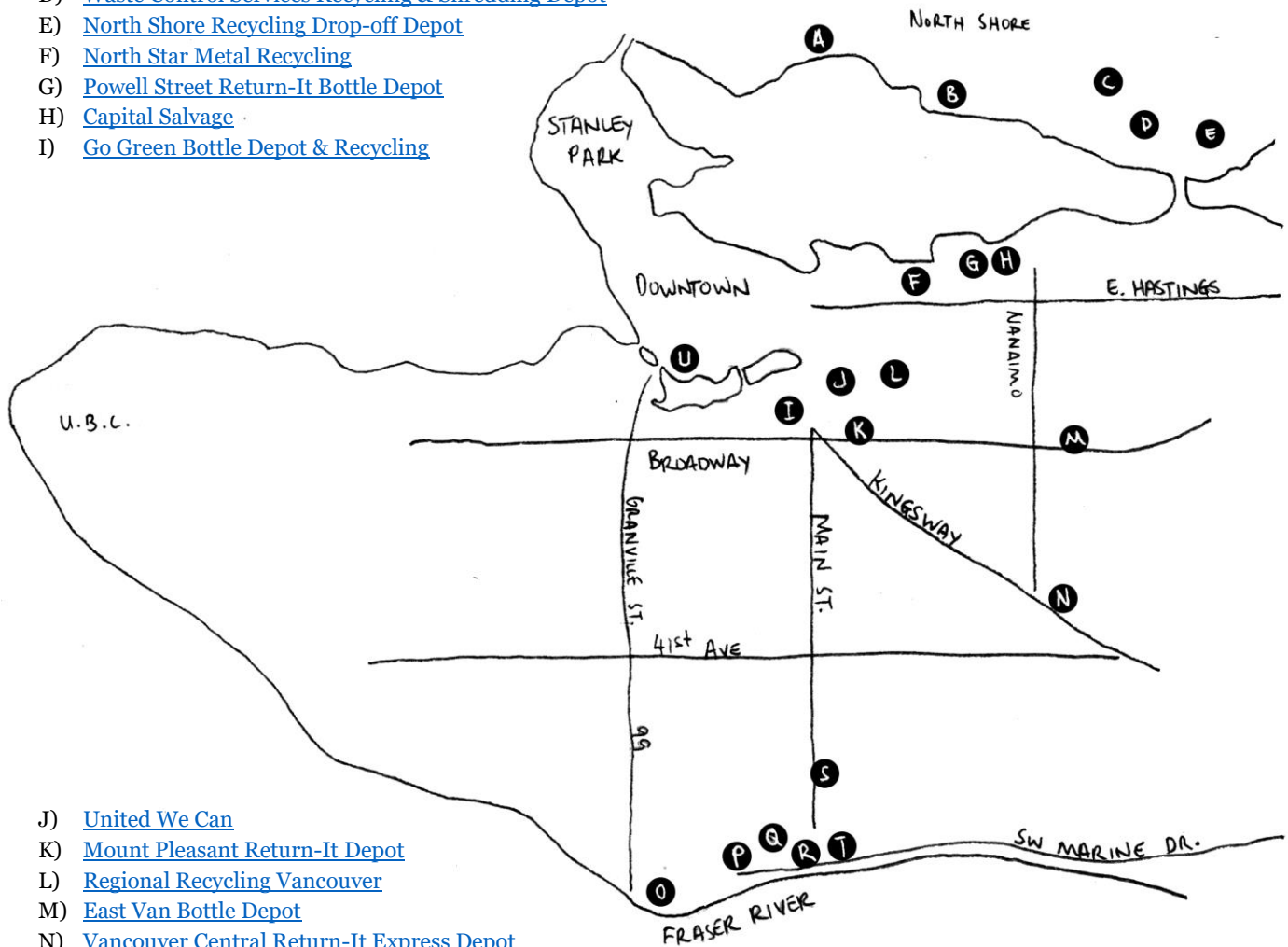


Fabrics – clean fabric can be recycled at many Vancouver depots.

Drywall, Mattresses, Asbestos (Residential), and Excess Yard/Wood Waste – can be disposed of at the Vancouver South and North Vancouver Transfer stations as well as the Vancouver Landfill and Recycling Depot in Delta.

Where to Recycle

- A) [North Shore Bottles Depot Ltd](#)
- B) [Lonsdale Bottle Depot](#)
- C) [North Vancouver Bottle & Return-It Depot](#)
- D) [Waste Control Services Recycling & Shredding Depot](#)
- E) [North Shore Recycling Drop-off Depot](#)
- F) [North Star Metal Recycling](#)
- G) [Powell Street Return-It Bottle Depot](#)
- H) [Capital Salvage](#)
- I) [Go Green Bottle Depot & Recycling](#)



- J) [United We Can](#)
- K) [Mount Pleasant Return-It Depot](#)
- L) [Regional Recycling Vancouver](#)
- M) [East Van Bottle Depot](#)
- N) [Vancouver Central Return-It Express Depot](#)
- O) [Return-It Express Depot](#)
- P) [Vancouver Zero Waste Centre & Transfer Station](#)
- Q) [Computer and Electronics Recycling Depot \(Computie\)](#)
- R) [South Van Bottle Depot](#)
- S) [Cascades Recover Plus Vancouver](#)
- T) [Revolution Recycling](#)
- U) [Yaletown Return-It Express](#)

What More Can I Do?

Don't forget the other two 'R's': re-use items, and even more importantly, reduce your consumption! You can make bigger changes too, such as choosing not to drive or fly. Cut back on meat in your diet. Shop locally. Don't support companies you don't believe in, and lobby local organizations to do the same. Get involved in your community by starting a reading group, joining a special interest group, and raising awareness. Get active on social media. Vote. Climate strike. Organize and attend protests. These are just a few ways of getting involved and effecting sustainable change.

Sources, Resources and Useful Links

Multi-family and curbside recycling

<https://recyclebc.ca/vancouver/>

Apartments, condos, and townhomes

<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/apartments-condos-and-townhomes.aspx>

Single family homes and duplexes

<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/single-family-homes-and-duplexes.aspx>

Waste disposal and recycling for businesses

<https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/waste-collection-for-businesses.aspx>

Recycling guide 2020/2021 – Basically everything you need to know in one place!

http://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Recycling_Guide_2020_Vancouver_web.pdf

Waste Wizard – searchable database of how to dispose of specific items

<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/waste-wizard.aspx>

Deposits, Fees, and Container Types

<https://www.return-it.ca/beverage/products/>

Find a depot near you – search by address

<https://recyclebc.ca/where-to-recycle/find-depot/>

Vancouver recycling and disposal facilities

<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/recycling-and-disposal-facilities.aspx>

Google Map of Recycling Facilities in Vancouver

<http://bit.ly/recyclingfacilitiesvancouver>

Recycling flexible plastics

<https://recyclebc.ca/flexiblepackaging/>

https://recyclebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Material-List_Other-Flexible-Plastic-Packaging.pdf

Recycling during COVID – lots of useful ideas and links

<https://recyclebc.ca/covid19/>

Recycle B.C. app – this link will take you to page where you can download the app

<https://recyclebc.ca/app/>

Looking for artistic or research inspiration related to Sustainability? Expand your horizons here!

<https://guides.ecuad.ca/sustainability/home>