

# Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

## General FAQs

### Q. What is the Clear Bag Program?

**A.** Effective **January 2, 2020**, you must place your garbage in clear bags.

A small opaque bag (the size of a grocery bag) may be placed inside the clear bag to conceal private material, or you can place your clear bag inside a garbage can to conceal your garbage until the collector arrives.

If you only produce as much garbage as would fit into your privacy bag, the privacy bag can be left at the curb for collection or dropped off at the Transfer Station without placing it inside of a clear bag.

Opaque bags will no longer be collected at the curb or accepted at the Drummond Line Transfer Station as of **June 1, 2020**.

### Q. What is the difference between a soft launch and a hard launch?

**A.** A soft launch simply refers to a specified time period whereby residents are encouraged to participate but no penalty will be imposed. This will ease residents into participation within a 3 – 6 month time period. A hard launch will mean that participation in the clear bag program is mandatory and followed up with enforcement (non-collection) of non-compliant bags. This strategy provides an additional benefit of enabling residents to use up existing inventories of opaque plastic bags and to purchase clear bags.

### Q. How do I set my garbage out for collection?

**A.** Garbage may be set out for collection in the following ways:

- 1) In a clear bag in a garbage can OR loose in a garbage can (Must weigh less than 13.6 kg (30 lbs))
- 2) In a clear bag (of "regular" size which is approximately 75L or 65 cm x 83 cm)
- 3) In a privacy bag: a privacy bag is a small grocery sized bag which may be opaque to shield private items



Garbage bag limits continue to apply: a maximum of **2 bags** can be picked up at the curb each week. Each bag must weigh less than 13.6 kg (30 lbs) and be less than 0.06m<sup>3</sup> (2 ft<sup>3</sup>). Garbage placed loose in a can must also conform to these weight and size restrictions. Extra garbage can be brought to the Drummond Line Transfer Station (tipping fees will apply).

### Q. Why is Otonabee-South Monaghan making the change from dark bags to clear bags?

**A.** The Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan participates in the waste audits to examine the composition of garbage so that we can continue to improve our waste management practices; recent audits indicate high amounts of hazardous and recyclable material in garbage bags. Although these materials have been banned from the waste stream, the rules have been hard to enforce since the material was shielded by opaque garbage bags.

Clear bags help our collectors identify materials that are banned from garbage disposal. Clear bags also protect our collectors from glass, knives, and other sharp items hidden in the dark bags.

The Peterborough County-City Waste Management Facility on Bensfort Road currently accepts our waste, but this site has a limited life of perhaps 15 years. The replacement cost of this site exceeds 10 million dollars and will take nearly a decade to establish, it is therefore in our best financial and land use interest to extend the life of the landfill as much as possible.

This switch to clear bags aligns with the Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gases. Decreasing our overall garbage foot print will help extend the life of the waste site and minimize our long term costs.

**Q. What do I do with compostable foodwaste?**

**A.** Composting is encouraged, however food waste is permitted in your clear bag.

**Q. Does the use of clear bags (garbage) increase diversion of waste from landfill?**

**A.** Yes, all participating municipalities have noted an increase in the amount of recyclable material diverted from the curbside garbage into curbside and depot recycling where programs are in place.

**Q. What about my privacy?**

**A.** To conceal private material 1 (one) small opaque bag, such as a grocery bag, may be used and placed inside **each** of your clear bags. You can also place your clear bag inside a garbage can.

The privacy bag is meant to conceal items you wish to remain obscured from public view. Garbage such as sanitary products, incontinence products, medical/pharmaceutical objects, diapers, used tissues. Cat litter does **not** need to be placed in the privacy bag, cat litter can be placed in the clear bag with other garbage.

Confidential documents should not be placed in the privacy bag; please shred confidential documents and place the shredded material in a bag in your fibres Blue box for collection.

**Q. What if I have a medical condition and require an exemption?**

**A.** The Township has a waste exemption policy that you may apply for from the clear bag waste collection policy. To be eligible, applicants must submit an application along with the proof of the medical condition verified by a medical professional to the Clerk/Deputy-CAO at the Township Office. All information is kept **Confidential** to respect the privacy of the individual. It is the responsibility of the resident to renew their exemption status each year.

**Q. Will someone be looking through my garbage each week?**

**A.** Collectors will gauge whether a bag conforms to the By-law regarding recycling, and hazardous waste based on what can be seen through the clear bag. Collectors will not be opening and going through your garbage bags.

**Q. What if there is divertible or recyclable materials in my garbage bag?**

**A.** The Township is providing a tolerance level of 10%. It is up to the collection staff to determine at a glance if a good effort has been made to remove recyclables from the garbage stream. The program is trying to engage the non-recycle users to participate in the blue box programs. If it is determined that your bag contains more than the 10% of divertible or recyclable materials your bag will not be collected.

**Q. Do other communities use clear garbage bags?**

**A.** Yes. Communities all across Canada and the U.S.A have implemented clear garbage bag programs, with over a half million Canadian households participating in a clear bag collection program since 2015. Local examples of communities within Peterborough County with clear bag collection programs include, Trent Lakes, Township of Asphodel-Norwood, The Township of Douro-Dummer and the Township of Cavan Monaghan. There are several larger urban centres that have opted for clear garbage bag programs such as The City of Guelph, The City of Kawartha Lakes, Town of Aurora, Municipality of Bluewater, Dufferin County and Town of Markham to name a few.

**Q. I use opaque bags under my sink and throughout my home (i.e. grocery bags or white kitchen catchers), can I tie them up and throw them into my clear bag?**

**A.** A single small grocery bag is permitted within your clear bag to serve as a privacy bag. Waste bin contents from around the house can be dumped into larger clear bags or use clear kitchen catcher bags through-out your home; clear kitchen catchers should be available at local retailers. Multiple opaque privacy bags inside the clear bag are not be accepted.

**Q. Do clear bags cost more and where can I buy clear garbage bags?**

**A.** Both clear and black plastic garbage bags are made from identical materials but without colouring added, so the suggested retail price should be similar for the same size and style.

**Q. What happens if I don't use clear bags after June 1, 2020?**

**A.** Opaque bags will no longer be collected at the curb or accepted at the Drummond Line Transfer Station.

**Q. I don't use bags at all, I throw garbage loose into a garbage can for collection.**

**A.** This is an acceptable method of disposing of your garbage. The same rules regarding allowable size/weight as described above and what must be sorted out of your garbage bag applies to waste that is loose in garbage cans.

**Q. What can I do with any extra dark bags I have left over?**

**A.** Sufficient time will be provided to residents upon implementation that residents will be able to use up their black bags prior to the launch of the program. Should there be any surplus bags, they can be given to friends/family in other areas that have not yet adopted a clear bag program, clothing donations or they can be recycled.

**Q. Does renovation material get picked up with the garbage?**

**A.** Renovation materials are not collected at the curb; some materials, such as insulation and vapour barrier, shingles, drywall, and wood may be brought to the Drummond Line Transfer Station. As well, The Peterborough County/City Landfill on Bensfort Road does accept construction and renovation

materials.

**Q. How should I dispose of objects with sharp edges?**

**A.** Any object with sharp edges must be labeled "broken glass/sharp object" and wrapped in cardboard or placed in a protective container to cover any exposed or sharp edges so that it is safe to handle.

Medical sharps must be disposed of in appropriate containers and delivered to participating pharmacies. Contact your pharmacy for details.

**Q. What are we going to do with garbage that is dumped in the ditches?**

**A.** This is called illegal dumping and is a serious offence with penalties. Information that can be safely obtained, such as the licence plate number of the vehicle involved and the location of the dumping is valuable, but do not pick up or go through dumped garbage. Please contact the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan Public Works Office at (705) 745-3595 to report illegal dumping.

**Q. Am I allowed to burn my garbage?**

**A.** No. Burning of Prohibited Material, such as garbage, compost, or recyclables is banned by our Open Air Burning By-Law. Only clean, dry wood or wood by-products are allowed to be burned. Painted, pressure treated, or glued wood products are not considered clean and are prohibited. Information on burning in the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan can be found in By-law No. 2015-29.

**Q. I am diverting as much material from the garbage as I can, why do I have to participate?**

**A.** For residents that are already doing their best to divert, this program should make no difference except for the colour of the bag they use. This program is intended to increase participation from households that do not currently recycle or properly dispose of hazardous materials by raising the standard to those who already participate.

**Q. Can I still use clear bags for recyclables?**

**A. No!!** The County's Blue Box recycling program requires that all recyclable materials be placed to the curb loose in boxes for collection, not in bags. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the County at 705-775-2737 x0. Clear bags or garbage can may be used for your garbage only. Remember that the contents of the bag must be visible to curbside collection and transfer station staff.

## **Recycling FAQs**

**Q. What goes in my Blue box?**

**A.** If you are unsure about what is accepted in Blue boxes in the County of Peterborough, please visit [www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling](http://www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling) and use the Searchable Waste Portal.

**Q. Can shredded paper be included in my Blue box?**

**A.** Shredded paper goes into recycling with other fibre recyclables, please bag shredded paper and place it in your fibres Blue box.

**Q. Do I put my other recyclables in plastic bags?**

**A.** No, other recyclables (such as plastic, metal, and glass containers) should be loose in your Blue Box. Film plastic (such as grocery or bread bags) can be stuffed into a bag, which is then tied shut to keep film plastic separate from paper in the fibre Blue box.

**Q. How do I recycle my electronics and batteries?**

**A.** Unwanted electronics and batteries are not accepted at the curb for disposal. Electronics can be dropped off free of charge at the Drummond Line Transfer Station, Peterborough County/City Landfill and Pido Road. Used electronics in good, working condition may be donated to charity organizations, check with the organization to confirm that they accept electronic donations.

Batteries are collected free of charge at the following locations in the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan:

- Municipal Building, 20 Third Street, Keene
- Drummond Line Transfer Station, Drummond Line

**Q. Where do I get a Blue Box?**

**A.** Blue Boxes can be purchased for \$6.00 (tax included – effective January 1, 2020) from:

1. the Municipal Office 20 Third Street in Keene: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
2. The County of Peterborough at the County Infrastructure Services Office 310 Armour Road in Peterborough, Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please contact the Municipal Office to ensure Blue Boxes are in stock. Blue boxes do not need to be from the Township of Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan or Peterborough County to be used, they may be purchased from other jurisdictions or retail stores.

**Q. My Blue Box is damaged. Can it be replaced?**

**A.** Broken or damaged Blue Boxes can be exchanged free of charge at the Municipal Office in Keene or at the County Infrastructure Services Office in Peterborough. Bring your damaged Blue box in to exchange it; exchanges are for a Blue box. Please contact the Municipal Office to ensure Blue Boxes are in stock.

**Q. Why isn't my recycling always picked up?**

**A.** Recycling needs to be sorted and packaged so that the collectors are able to deal with it safely and efficiently. Recycling must be placed loose in recycling Blue boxes – do not put it in bags (except for film plastic) or a receptacle that is not a blue box.



Recycling is to be sorted into separate bins: bin for containers (glass, plastic, metal, Tetra-packs, etc...) and bin for fibres (paper and film plastic). Bins that are not sorted properly will not be picked up. Collectors will not sort bins. Residents may have more than one bin of containers or fibres so long as they are sorted correctly.

Cardboard boxes should be broken down collection.

**Q. How do I start composting?**

**A.** Residents can dispose of compostable material by: purchasing or building a composter on your property and/or you can purchase or build a digester on your property.

**Q. What do I do with bones/meat/oil?**

**A.** These items can be placed in home digesters or the garbage.

While a home digester needs to have some upfront work done to prepare a site, a digester requires less maintenance work than a composter, can accept a greater diversity of kitchen scraps, and generally offers years of service before any more maintenance work is required.

**Q. Where do I get a composter or digester?**

**A.** A limited number of composters and digesters are available at the County Office, 310 Armour Road; 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday. Please call for availability at 705-775-2737. Digesters are available for \$55.00 plus tax and composters are \$30.00 plus tax.

Composters also make great do-it-yourself projects. Composters can be made very simply or as elaborately as desired, a search using “homemade composting bins” on Google offers many great ideas.

**Q. Where should I put a composter or home digester?**

**A.** Composters and digesters should be placed in a location that is easy to access year round, especially if you intend to harvest the finished product out of a composter.

Composters should be located in a well-drained, sunny area. Access to a water source to moisten material if it gets too dry would be advisable. More information on composters can be found on the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan website.

Digesters can create a small amount of leachate, so they should be kept away from wells and lakeshores; they should also be kept away from septic beds, ponds, and wet areas since these water sources can disrupt the break down process by keeping material too wet. Digesters should be kept away from buried lines and cables to avoid accidental contact when digging. Digesters should be placed in an area that is in as much direct sunlight as possible.

**Q. How do I dispose of pet waste (kitty litter, dog feces or pet feces with wood shavings)?**

**A.** Pet waste and kitty litter should be placed in your clear garbage bag. The waste can either be put in the bag loose or placed in smaller, pet waste bags (“poop bags”) or litter pan liners. If it is contained within a bag from a walk, etc. throw the baggy with contents into the large clear bag. Please do **not** place pet waste in a home composter or digester.

## Garbage FAQs

### Q. What can go into the garbage?

A. Even with excellent recycling, composting, and removal of hazardous materials, there are still items that for one reason or another cannot be diverted out of the garbage at this time; some of these items include:

<b>Garbage from the washroom/hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adsorbent pads (diapers, incontinence products)</li><li>• Artificial eyelashes</li><li>• Artificial nails</li><li>• Bandages (Band-Aids) and other first aid material</li><li>• Blister packs</li><li>• Cotton balls</li><li>• Cotton swab (Q-Tips)</li><li>• Dental floss</li><li>• Disposable razors</li><li>• Feminine hygiene products</li><li>• Hair and nail clippings</li><li>• Hair elastics and clips</li><li>• Hand cream or make-up tubes (empty)</li><li>• Make-up application or removal pads or tissues</li><li>• Medical items (sharps need to be disposed of in an approved sharps container and be dropped off at a pharmacy)</li><li>• Paper towels</li><li>• Single use products or sample packaging in laminated or foil packaging</li><li>• Soiled paper products</li><li>• Sponges and loofahs</li><li>• Tissues (Kleenex)</li><li>• Toilet brush</li><li>• Toothbrushes</li><li>• Toothpaste tubes (empty)</li></ul>
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## Garbage from the kitchen

- Adsorbent pads (meat tray pads)
- Broken glass/ceramic/Pyrex/knives/plates/bowls (these items must be placed in a container or box and obviously marked as "Sharp")
- Butcher paper (meat wrapping paper)
- Butter wrapper
- Candy wrappers
- Cellophane plastic wrap (such as straw wrappers and other **non-stretchy** food bags)
- Cereal bags
- Cheese wrapping (including plastic wrap for sliced cheese, bar cheese, and cheese snacks)
- Chip bags
- Clementine/mandarin boxes
- Coffee bags
- Coffee cup lids
- Coffee pods (including those marked as recyclable are currently garbage)
- Cookie bags
- Cracker bags
- Cutlery (plastic)
- Flexible packaging (such as Kool-Aid Jammers)
- Freshness bags that contain tea bags (the tea bag itself is compostable)
- Freshness seal on yogurt cups and containers
- Frozen entrée dinner boxes
- Gum wrappers
- Kabob and chop-sticks
- Mesh fruit and vegetable bags/covers
- Paper products that are soiled or greasy (muffin cups, paper out of bacon packaging, grease brown bags, popcorn bags)
- Paper towels and napkins (cardboard roll is recyclable)
- Parchment paper (cardboard roll is recyclable)
- Rags, sponges, scouring pads
- Ready-made food packs (soup, rice, potato, seasonings, pasta)
- Single serve breakfast bags
- Single serve creamer/milk/butter packs
- Single serve hot chocolate packs
- Single serve soup bags
- Slider, locking storage bags (Zip-lock)
- Soiled paper products Straws
- Stretch cling wrap (Saran wrap, meat wrap)
- Styrofoam of any kind which includes Styrofoam food trays and containers, plates, bowls, cups, egg cartons, clam shell food containers
- Water filters
- Wax paper (cardboard roll is recyclable)

<p><b>Garbage from the office/business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binders</li> <li>• Bubble wrap</li> <li>• Corrugated plastic</li> <li>• Label/sticker backing sheets (this is the sheet of paper that labels are affixed to until they are used, also called a release liner, carrier, glassine)</li> <li>• Nylon strapping</li> <li>• Padded envelopes (an envelope with a bubble liner, also called a bubble envelope or bubble mailer)</li> <li>• Pens and markers</li> <li>• Spent staples or paper clips</li> <li>• Styrofoam of any kind which includes Styrofoam packing peanuts and packing sheets</li> <li>• Tape</li> </ul>
<p><b>Garbage from the home inside and out</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art paint tubes (empty)</li> <li>• Balloons</li> <li>• Broken glass/ceramic/Pyrex/knives/plates/bowls/incandescent light bulbs (these items must be placed in a container or box and obviously marked as "Sharp")</li> <li>• Bulky plastic (also called durable plastic) such as toys, buckets, laundry hampers, lawn furniture*</li> <li>• Caulking and silicon tubes (empty)</li> <li>• Cleaning wipes (such as Lysol or Armor-All wipes)</li> <li>• Clothes line</li> <li>• Corrugated plastic (such as election signs)</li> <li>• Elastics</li> <li>• Furnace filters</li> <li>• Hose and tubing</li> <li>• Mop heads</li> <li>• Paint brushes</li> <li>• Paint rollers</li> <li>• Plastic cards (such as gift cards)</li> <li>• Rags</li> <li>• Rope and string</li> <li>• Sealant tubes – empty (such as caulking, silicon, adhesive tubes)</li> <li>• Steel wool</li> <li>• Styrofoam of any kind including small amounts of dried spray foam</li> <li>• Vacuum bags</li> <li>• Vapour barrier</li> <li>• Water filters</li> </ul>

<p><b>Garbage from the farm/pets/livestock</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bale wrap*</li> <li>• Baler twine (binder twine)</li> <li>• Broken equipment such as collars, halters, leads, leashes, etc...</li> <li>• Hair, fur and nail clippings</li> <li>• Kitty litter (all litter types are garbage)</li> <li>• Livestock feed bags</li> <li>• Net wrap*</li> <li>• Pet food bags</li> <li>• Pet treat bags</li> <li>• Pet waste (loose or inside "poop bags")</li> <li>• Silage bags and silage wrap*</li> <li>• Styrofoam of any kind</li> <li>• Wormer tubes (empty)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Miscellaneous garbage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashes, charcoal (cooled)</li> <li>• Boat wrap*</li> <li>• Cards or paper with sparkles</li> <li>• Cellophane bags</li> <li>• Florist plastic wrap for cut flowers.</li> <li>• Cigarette butts (cold)</li> <li>• Clothes pins</li> <li>• Disposable lighters (empty)</li> <li>• Broken knick-knacks</li> <li>• Metal or rope handles from gift bags</li> <li>• Metallic gift wrap</li> <li>• Milk tabs and other small pieces of garbage such as twist ties, clothing tags, plastic sticky notes (Post-It Notes), tamper evidence tabs and rings from drink cartons.</li> <li>• Moldy or soiled clothing</li> <li>• Nylon plastic cable tie (Zip-ties)</li> <li>• Photographs</li> <li>• Ribbons and bows</li> <li>• Worn out footwear</li> </ul>

\*There are programs in place outside of the Blue Box Program to recycle these items (see below).

This list is not exhaustive. If you aren't sure where items should be disposed of, contact the Township office or consult the Searchable Waste Portal available at [www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling](http://www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling)

## Q. Are there programs available for disposing of unwanted items?

A. Yes, there are a multitude of programs available that help further divert unwanted items out of the garbage, the following is a limited list of programs we are currently aware of, please contact the program organizer for details.

- **Unwanted items: clothing, fabrics, household items in good condition** can be donated to a number of charities; however not all charities accept clothing or fabric that is damaged. Value Village will accept clothing and fabric that is no longer wanted due to rips, worn patches, or stains (moldy or soiled clothing should be washed and dried before donating). A more complete list of items that Value Village accepts can be found at [www.valuevillage.com/donate/what-we-take](http://www.valuevillage.com/donate/what-we-take). Many animal shelters accept donations of used blankets, linens, towels, and pet/livestock equipment; please call your local shelter to determine what items they will accept.
- **Medical sharps and needles** must be disposed of in approved containers from a pharmacy. Contact your pharmacy for details.
- **Scrap metal** can be brought to the Drummond Line Transfer Station Metal bin or dropped off at any of the private roadside scrap metal bins that are available throughout the Township.
- **Wood** can be brought to the Drummond Line Transfer Station Wood bin.
- **Tires, empty propane tanks, and batteries** can be brought to the Drummond Line Transfer Station.
- **Styrofoam** used in packaging (such as the shaped pieces that electronics are shipped in) should be dropped off at the **24-hr Recycling Depot at 400 Pido Road**.
- **Household Hazardous Waste** can be disposed of at the Drummond Line Transfer Station during regular Transfer Station hours or can be dropped off at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot at 400 Pido Road during business hours. Visit [www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling](http://www.ptbocounty.ca/recycling) for a list of seasonal Household Hazardous Waste events in Peterborough County.
- **Used motor oil** can be dropped off at the Drummond Line Transfer Station year round; please do not mix other substances with the motor oil. Empty plastic oil containers must be placed in the special recycle bins adjacent the oil collection drum. Residents can also recycle other **empty automotive fluid containers** in this special recycling receptacle. Windshield washer fluid containers can be recycled in the normal Blue box. Please ask the attendant at the Transfer Station for direction.
- **Books** in good condition can be donated to the Otonabee-South Monaghan Public Library collection and to The Friends of the Otonabee-South Monaghan Public Library Book Sale. Books that are in poor condition can be recycled--remove the hard covers and recycle them separately.
- **Empty pesticide and seed bags and containers** may be eligible for return through **CleanFARMS**, [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca), please call 1-877-622-4460 ex 2227 for information. Drop off locations are available in Campbellford and Cavan.
- **Bale wrap, silage bags, mulch film, greenhouse film, pallet stretch wrap, and boat wrap** are collected by **Switch Energy Corp**. Farmers, marinas and organizations that deal with this waste can contact Switch Energy to create an account to have these items collected. Minimum amounts and a nominal user fee apply. Contact Don Nott for details 1-519-524-0193, [dnott@switchenergycorp.com](mailto:dnott@switchenergycorp.com) or [www.switchenergycorp.com](http://www.switchenergycorp.com).

This list is not exhaustive. If you know of other great ways to give used materials new life, please let us know!

You can visit us at the office Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The office is located at 20 Third Street in Keene.

You can call us at 705-295-6852 or e-mail us at [info@osmtownship.ca](mailto:info@osmtownship.ca)