



# **Organics and Recycling Guide**

## **For Construction, Renovation, Demolition & Material Suppliers**

## Diverting Waste in Squamish

Everyone who lives and works in Squamish produces waste. In 2019 Squamish residents sent an average of **563 kg** of waste per person to the landfill. Squamish's Council Strategic Plan aims to minimize the per person disposal rate to **300 kg** per year by 2021. In order to achieve this target, we've made some changes to the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw that will encourage everyone to help reduce their waste by keeping organics and recyclables out of the landfill (this is called waste diversion).

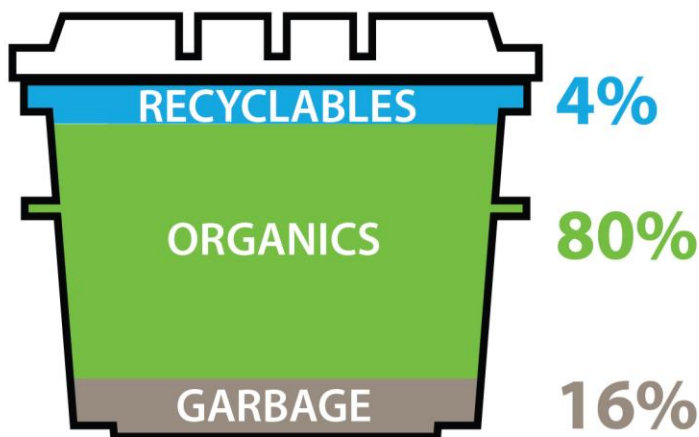
This guide will explain the changes and how to comply, as well as provide some information about why diverting waste is important.

### WHO?

This guide is for any business or organization that produces construction or materials waste. This includes: construction sites, material supply companies, home improvement stores, demolition companies, etc.

Recent audits reveal that many of the materials sent to the landfill could have been diverted for composting or recycling. The Squamish Zero Waste Strategy also identified construction, renovation, demolition, and material suppliers (as well as multi-family homes and other businesses and organizations) as the largest generators of waste in our community, producing approximately **55%** of all the waste arriving at the landfill. Many businesses want to align their environmental values and their actions – how can we do better?

Waste in Construction and Demolition (2018 Waste Audit results)



### The Squamish Landfill

With the Squamish Landfill close to reaching its full capacity, a multi-million-dollar capital project was completed in 2019 to build a wall to expand the landfill vertically. This 10-metre high wall is expected to give the Landfill a lifespan increase of between 5 and 10 years. But you can do your part by keeping organics and recyclables out of the garbage, and help increase the lifespan of the Squamish Landfill.

### WHAT?

The Solid Waste Utility Bylaw improves the way Squamish manages its waste by banning organics and recycling from landfill, and requiring the use of clear bags for garbage.

To comply with this bylaw, businesses and organizations need to:

- ☐ Ensure that organics, recyclables, and garbage are collected and disposed of separately
- ☐ Provide educational information about how to separate organics, recyclables, and garbage to all new staff (and to existing staff annually)
- ☐ Post clear and accessible signage to help staff and site users separate organics, recyclables, and garbage

## WHEN?

Every owner and occupier must ensure that organic, recyclable and residual materials are placed in the appropriate collection container, without contamination since the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw was adopted by Council on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The District of Squamish (DoS) recognizes that changes to the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw mean changes in the way you manage waste in your business or on your site. That's why we have created this guide to help you start diverting waste today!

For more information on Squamish waste management, including bylaw updates, and tools to support changes to infrastructure, systems and training, visit [squamish.ca/construction-waste](http://squamish.ca/construction-waste).

## WHY?

Everyone living, visiting and doing business in Squamish creates waste. Reducing and diverting waste from the Landfill makes social, environmental and economic sense.

### Dollars and Cents

As the costs associated with the collection, transportation and processing of waste continue to steadily rise, the benefits of reducing waste and keeping it out of the landfill become more apparent. Operations that actively manage their waste are able to reduce waste-associated costs and avoid overage charges, now and into the future.

For example, the tipping fees for recyclables and wood have been set lower than the fee for general Demolition and Construction Waste. However, if your Demolition and Construction Waste destined for landfill is discovered to contain more than 10% organic or recyclable material (or 5% in 2021) that could have been diverted, you will instead be charged the **Mixed Waste fee**. This fee is set at **\$375.00 per tonne** and is designed to incentivise diversion and penalize those who are not managing contamination of waste appropriately (see the table for comparison). Properties that do not separate their waste may also be subject to a \$500 fine under the Squamish Solid Waste Bylaw.

It is in your best financial interest to avoid the Mixed Waste fee by separating your waste on site. Want to know how much you can save? Calculate your costs with our worksheet.

Visit: [squamish.ca/construction-waste](http://squamish.ca/construction-waste)

Remember, **it is your responsibility** to ensure your waste hauler is aware of the contents of your bins so that they bring them to the right place, and so that you can avoid the Mixed Waste fee. For example, if your wood bin has minimal contamination (up to 5%), it can still be processed as Wood Waste.

WASTE STREAM	LANDFILL TIPPING FEES
<b>Commercial Waste</b>	\$170 per tonne
<b>Recyclables</b> <i>Steel, Metal, Cardboard, Paper, Containers, Glass, Electronics, Small Appliances</i>	No charge
<b>Wood Waste (considered organic material)</b> <i>Variable fee depending on type</i>	\$90-\$120 per tonne
<b>Gypsum Board</b> <i>No Asbestos</i>	\$290 per tonne
<b>Concrete</b>	\$125 per tonne

*2020 costs at time of guide production. Fees are subject to change.*

For tipping fees for all materials, visit: [squamish.ca/landfill](http://squamish.ca/landfill)



## People and Planet

Organic waste (such as wood) is a valuable resource. Diverting organics from garbage sent to the landfill helps to:

- reduce methane emissions, a greenhouse gas up to **72** times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>;
- extend the lifespan of the Squamish landfill (saving all taxpayers money);
- return nutrients to soil, which both improves soil health and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers;
- boost the soil's ability to retain water and decrease runoff;
- provide an all-natural soil amendment to support farmers producing food in our region;
- show a clear commitment to a greener future, in line with shared community values;
- encourage more environmentally sustainable behaviour in homes and workplaces.



**Local Champion!** One local business diverts all their wood waste to be recycled and reused.

## HOW?

Like any changes in operations, a degree of planning and preparation is required for success. Use this guide to get started on the right track.

## Our Zero Waste Future

*"Zero waste is about building a vibrant circular economy, where unwanted materials are not disposed in a landfill or incinerator, but instead become the raw materials for something new. A strong circular economy keeps valuable resources circulating in the local economy, supporting good green jobs, benefiting the community and reducing harmful environmental impacts." – City of Toronto*

Squamish has a goal of being a zero waste community by 2040.

Squamish 2016 Zero Waste Strategy Priorities:

- Implement an organics disposal ban;
- Ensure recycling and organics diversion programs and services are available and convenient for everyone at home, at work and on the go;
- Institute construction and demolition waste diversion guidelines;
- Promote waste minimization.



# STEP ONE – REVIEW YOUR CURRENT WASTE SYSTEMS

*If you don't measure it, you can't manage it.*

Understanding the sources of waste in your business or organization is the first step in managing waste.

Review the flow of materials at your site to identify opportunities for waste reduction. Reviewing waste can be as simple as conducting visual checks to better understand what is in your waste and to identify common contaminants. For a more in-depth insight into the waste you are producing consider conducting a waste audit or hiring an external company to do one for you.

**TIP** – When auditing your waste streams, don't forget about waste produced by staff using the site. Consider what happens to coffee cups, lunch food scraps, plastic utensils, and other items.

If you aren't ready to dive into a waste audit quite yet, ask for information from your waste hauler (e.g. waste weights can help you get a sense of your waste generation). Talk to your team, site users, or maintenance staff, because they can help confirm existing waste management practices and identify possible ways to reduce waste or manage it better.



**Local Champion!** At one local building company, waste auditing duties are assigned to the safety team. Staff regularly check site bins for contamination and communicate any issues to workers. In this way, waste audits are built into the everyday processes of the site and problems can quickly be identified and fixed.



Download resources for conducting waste audits at:  
[squamish.ca/construction-waste](https://squamish.ca/construction-waste)

## Managing Your Waste Contract

Once you have determined which types of waste are being produced in your operation, make sure those waste streams are also being collected at relevant waste collection points. The person currently managing your waste contract(s) will have an existing relationship with your hauler and knowledge of your property's waste, which can help fast track conversations around service additions and/or changes.

Ask your hauler for a quote or reach out to other haulers if your service provider does not offer the collection services you are looking for. In order to get a quote, the waste hauler must establish the level of service and bins that your operation will require.

**TIP** –When dealing with a hauler, be ready to answer the following questions to obtain a more accurate quote:

- The size of existing bins and frequency of collection
- The waste streams currently collected and any additional waste streams needed
- Anticipated future bin needs as construction/deconstruction proceeds (e.g. bins to collect cardboard, drywall, cement, etc.)

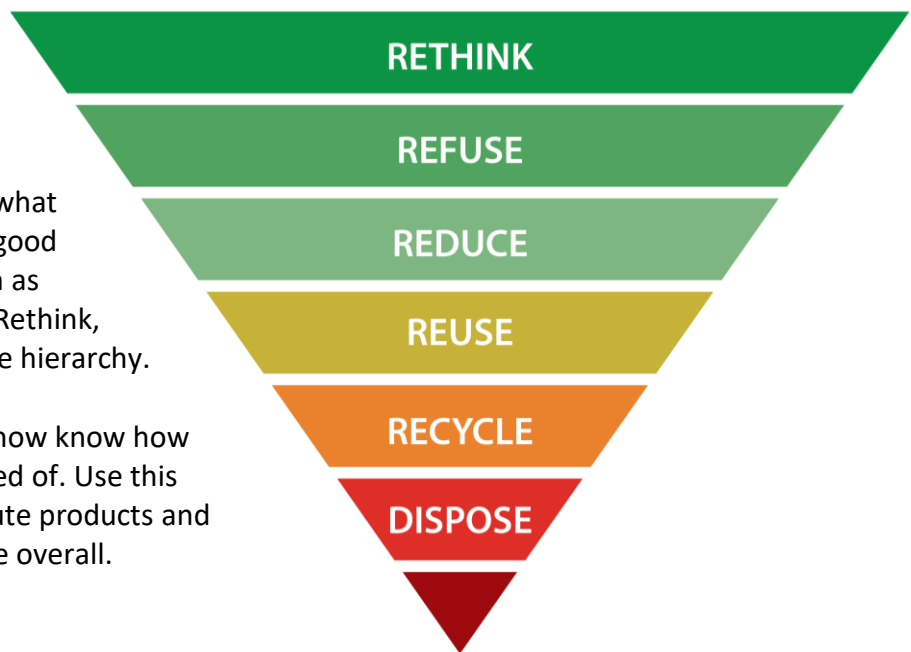
## STEP TWO – IDENTIFY WAYS TO REDUCE WASTE

*The best way to deal with waste is to not create it in the first place.*

### The Waste Hierarchy

As you manage your operations, you will need to make decisions about how and what you consume. The Waste Hierarchy is a good tool to try and limit your waste. As much as possible, try to practice the green “R”s (Rethink, Refuse, Reduce) before moving down the hierarchy.

Following your waste audit, you should now know how waste is currently generated and disposed of. Use this information to help eliminate or substitute products and make your waste easier to sort or reduce overall.



For example:

- **At Site A** - the fencing cannot be reused and is not recyclable. It ultimately ends up in the landfill after a relatively short period of use.
- **At Site B** - the fencing is more durable and can be packed away and stored for reuse at a future site. This saves resources and keeps material out of the landfill.

### Waste Wise Purchasing

- Purchase products that will last. These sometimes come at a higher cost, but will need to be replaced less frequently;
- Serve coffee ‘to stay’ and encourage staff to bring their own mug;
- Consult historical business levels to ensure purchases are based on need and plan for seasonal variations in business levels;
- Buy in bulk and avoid individually packaged products;
- Seek out eco-conscious products, such as items made from recycled materials;
- If possible, opt for hand dryers over paper hand towels in site washrooms. If you do use paper hand towels, be sure to have a designated bin so they can be composted separately;
- Use concentrated cleaning products, so you don’t pay for added water and refill when possible;
- Try to repair what you already have. This way, you avoid having to purchase at all!



**Local Champion!** One local construction company purchases caution tape made from cotton, which can be reused up to a dozen times.

# STEP THREE – RETHINK CONSTRUCTION WASTE

*Most materials can be reused or recycled*

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The key to reducing and diverting construction waste is setting waste diversion targets with contractors, building owners and construction professionals at the design and planning stages. Voluntary building standards such as LEED and BuiltGreen make waste management a priority and are becoming standard practice throughout the region. The list of construction materials subject to increased tipping fees and banned from landfill continues to grow. Identifying opportunities for waste reduction now will help you in the future.

### Reduce

- Encourage designs that create less waste
- Use standard sizes and quantities of materials, and plan ahead to reduce cut-offs
- Avoid over-ordering, unless unused items can be returned
- Ensure storage areas are safe, secure and weatherproof
- Raise awareness of expected waste management practices at the beginning of a job
- Allow one person to be in charge of material ordering to avoid surplus
- If available, use computer software to help accurately estimate required quantities

### Reuse

- Use collected off cuts before new materials and try to collect and reuse shores
- Fix temporary materials (e.g. forming bracing) so they can be dismantled and reused many times
- If you can't reuse materials on one project, aim to reuse them on another
- Return, sell or donate unused or salvaged materials (check Squamish ReBuild)
- Repair items (e.g. pallets) so they can be reused or returned to the supplier
- Dismantle buildings carefully to increase the amount of undamaged materials that can be salvaged
- Purpose-made reusable products for temporary applications (e.g. street mesh fence panels) may have a higher initial cost, but are cheaper in the long term and reduce waste
- When creating contracts, require contractors to divert extra material for reuse (e.g. to Squamish ReBuild)
- Reuse plywood to make signs for your waste bins (or even make your own temporary waste bins yourself!)



**Local Champion!** One local construction company is on a mission to reduce construction waste on site. Staff are required to use reusable mugs and not bring disposable cups to work. To be Bear Smart, workers must also pack out any lunch waste so there are no attractants left on site.



## Recycle

- Maximize recycling to adhere to the Solid Waste Bylaw and to avoid surcharges on materials banned from Squamish Landfill
- Set up a designated recycling area, with bins for each waste stream being produced and clear signage, which crew members can sort their waste into
- Keep materials for recycling clean, dry and separate from other materials or waste
- Focus recycling efforts on your main waste streams (such as wood, metal, cardboard and plastics) to create the biggest impact
- Unsure if an item is recyclable? Download the Recycling Council of BC's mobile 'Recyclepedia' app to find more than 1,000 drop-off locations and recycling options for over 70 materials across the province (or check page 12 of this guide)
- Ask suppliers if they will take back and re-use packaging, and work with those who do again

## Renovation and Deconstruction

Current demolition practices leave little room for waste diversion – in most cases, waste ends up in a single bin that is destined for the landfill. However, there are many opportunities to divert much-needed building materials to be reused and recycled. Deconstruction is the practice of “un-building” where materials are carefully removed and separated. Here are some of the ways you can incorporate deconstruction into your project:

- Consider selling or donating the entire structure for reuse at another location
- Review the site and make a list of salvageable items and material
- Remove items carefully with the right tools to keep them intact
- Bundle multiples of a particular material
- Store salvaged material in a dry, protected area
- Separate drywall for recycling
- Salvage and reuse items elsewhere on the project if possible
- Donate items to be reused or recycled (e.g. framing, flooring, appliances, cabinetry)
- Take lighting, fixtures, doors, and windows to Squamish ReBuild for repurposing
- Remove recyclable material (such as metals, hardware, concrete, untreated wood, etc.) and deliver to the appropriate facility (see page 12)



**Local Champion!** One local business repurposes wood waste by offering free firewood.

There are many services that can help you divert and salvage material. Below is a list of current local options but more may be available (check Metro Vancouver's resources here: [metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/wte-and-disposal/construction-waste/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/wte-and-disposal/construction-waste/Pages/default.aspx)).

Sea to Sky Removal: [info@seatoskyremoval.ca](mailto:info@seatoskyremoval.ca)

GFL: [squamish@gflenv.com](mailto:squamish@gflenv.com)

Reliable Waste: [info@reliablewaste.ca](mailto:info@reliablewaste.ca)

Phase One Dismantling Services: [phaseone.squamish@mail.com](mailto:phaseone.squamish@mail.com)

Clear Site: [info@clearsite.ca](mailto:info@clearsite.ca)



## Donating Material

Donating used or unwanted items helps keep waste out of the landfill and also brings materials to those who need them. Consider what might be useful for another building or what could be repurposed into a new item (e.g. framing, doors, lighting, pallets, off cuts, clean wood, etc.). Be sure to put aside reusable material in a covered place to protect it and make receiving donations more efficient.

### Give “waste” a second home

Squamish ReBuild is a not-for-profit used building supplies centre with a vision to fundamentally change the way communities think about and deal with construction 'waste'. As a Social Enterprise, their goal is to divert reusable construction 'waste' from the landfill, provide community members with good quality, affordable building supplies and promote upcycling. With the support of the Squamish community, Squamish ReBuild has diverted almost 900,000lbs of reusable construction materials from the landfill since opening its doors. When customers provide support by donating, shopping, volunteering and spreading the word, they help build a stronger community!

Please contact the manager at [ed@squamishrebuild.ca](mailto:ed@squamishrebuild.ca) if you have any questions regarding what items are accepted for donation at Squamish ReBuild. Although resources are limited, staff are often available for a site visit and sometimes available for pickup. You can donate to Squamish ReBuild for free, which means you will save money by avoiding tipping fees. Squamish ReBuild is conveniently located off Highway 99 for easy drop off on the way to the Squamish Landfill.

For more information, visit: <https://squamishrebuild.ca/>



**TIP** – Consider posting materials for donation on social media (such as Facebook Marketplace).

**Local Champions!** Staff at one local construction company are always on the look out for opportunities to donate materials. Using local connections, they have diverted pallets (to become tables), glass panels (to become a greenhouse), and freezers. You may even find some of their items in use around town. For example, reused insulation helps keep the floors warm in this local cabin (which has been refurbished using repurposed wood from Squamish ReBuild!).



## Keep Wood Out of the Landfill

One of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and extend the life of the Squamish Landfill is to keep wood out of the garbage stream.

When wood is deposited in the landfill, it takes a long time to break down. In addition, because wood is difficult to compact, it fills up the landfill at a much quicker rate than other items. This is especially problematic because the Squamish Landfill is nearing the end of its life. Any wood we can keep out of the landfill will help extend its lifespan while we find new solutions for waste storage.

### Did you know?

Wood is considered compostable because it breaks down into organic material over time. In traditional compost, the piles are stirred and aerated with oxygen allowing the materials to break down and produce soil and carbon dioxide. However, when wood (and other organics) end up in the landfill, they are buried. This creates an anaerobic (oxygen-free) environment and results in the creation of methane – a greenhouse gas up to **72** times more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub>. Landfilled organics (like wood) are therefore a major contributor to climate change in Squamish.



**Local Champion!** One local construction company collects and piles their wood waste and then crushes it before hauling. This fills the bins more efficiently, resulting in fuel and haulage savings. Pallets are stored separately and reused as long as possible, saving both money and recycling resources.



## Landfill Lumber Wall of Shame

The below images show how much wood ends up in the landfill from construction sites and building material businesses. The vast majority of these loads could be diverted for reuse or recycling.



## Where to Recycle Construction Waste

ITEM	LOCATION
Wood scraps (including pallets and offcuts – can include nails)	Squamish ReBuild (nail-free, no pallets) OR Squamish Landfill Transfer Station (“Dirty Wood”)
Yard waste or brush (no soil, boulders or stumps)	Squamish Landfill Transfer Station (“Clean Wood”)
Concrete (with or without rebar)	Coast Aggregates OR Squamish Landfill Transfer Station (up to 110 kg)
Ceramic and porcelain tiles, bricks, allan blocks, granite countertops	
Bags of cement mix, grout, mortar	
Toilets (components removed)	
Toilets (with components)	Squamish ReBuild
Tile (large amounts, unbroken)	
Paint	Squamish ReBuild OR Squamish Landfill Transfer Station
Glass (i.e. windows, sliding doors)	
Drywall (post-1990)	Squamish Landfill Transfer Station (must be date stamped or have analytical report)
Drywall (pre-1990, no date stamped or confirmed it contains asbestos)	Not accepted at Squamish Landfill. Contact a professional abatement company for removal and disposal. Visit <a href="http://squamish.ca/gypsum-board">squamish.ca/gypsum-board</a>
Asphalt (road)	Apline Paving Squamish OR Squamish Landfill Transfer Station
Metal	Allied Scrap Metals OR Squamish Landfill Transfer Station
To-go coffee cups	Squamish Landfill Transfer Station (Mixed Containers bin)
Carpet	Squamish ReBuild accepts surplus new items (carpet, Tyvek building wrap, vapour barrier, insulation) and vinyl siding in reusable condition  OR Check <a href="http://metrovanancouverrecycles.org">metrovanancouverrecycles.org</a> for recycling options outside of Squamish
EPS/Styrofoam (foam sheets/blocks)	
Polypropylene strapping	
Shrink wrap	
Tyvek building wrap	
Vapour barrier poly	
Bubble wrap	
Insulation	
Vinyl siding	

### What is “Recyclable”?

What is and isn’t recyclable can differ in different places. This is due in part to the kinds of resources needed to transport or process materials. This can lead to confusion (if I can recycle this there, then why not here?). If you are willing to look around, you should be able to divert most of your waste – there are even companies that can do this work for you (see page 8)!

The Squamish Landfill accepts many items for recycling but others cannot be recycled here and would therefore be part of the garbage to landfill stream. Use the table to help you decide what to do with your construction waste.

Remember, to comply with the Solid Waste Bylaw, you must divert enough so you remain below the 10% contamination threshold. Otherwise, you will be charged the Mixed Waste rate and may be fined.

You can find out more about tipping fees here: [www.squamish.ca/landfill](http://www.squamish.ca/landfill)



## Bears and Construction Waste

Squamish is proud to be a provincially certified Bear Smart Community. Reducing the potential for human-wildlife conflicts through proper solid waste management and storage is a top priority.

On construction sites, animal attractants include the following:

- Food and food waste
- Grease from barbecues
- Petroleum products, paint, antifreeze

Contractor requirements:

- Provide bear-resistant, locking containers for all food and organic waste. Keep containers locked at all times.
- Keep barbecues clean.
- Never leave food out.
- Keep food out of construction waste bins.

Best practices for contractors:

- Dispose of organics and all food waste separately from dconstruction waste in approved bear-resistant containers.
- Place “NO FOOD WASTE” signage on dumpsters.
- Provide bear safety and conflict reduction training for employees.

Resources:

- Information on reducing conflicts with wildlife: Wildlife Education & Coordination Services 604-815-5066 or [wildlife@squamish.ca](mailto:wildlife@squamish.ca)
- Bylaw information: 604-815-5067 or [bylaw@squamish.ca](mailto:bylaw@squamish.ca)
- Report wildlife sightings or encounters: Conservation Officer Service 24/7 hotline 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP).

## Wildlife Resistant Containers

Commercial refuse containers provided by your hauler should lock and be strong enough to prevent access by adult bears. It is important to train your staff on how to operate these containers to ensure they remain latched and inaccessible when not in use.

**TIP**—Ensure on-site bins are only used for construction waste to avoid attracting wildlife. Require crews to pack out the food waste they bring on site or provide wildlife-secure bins for food waste and recycling.



For more information on the Wildlife Attractant Bylaw and to view the Solid Waste Wildlife Proof Enclosure Design Guidelines, visit [squamish.ca/wildlife](http://squamish.ca/wildlife)



**Local Champion!** One local construction company takes waste diversion on site seriously. They even built their own bear-proof bins to help staff separate and store different waste streams. This makes collection and disposal clean and convenient for everyone.

Photo credit: Mike Vancapelle

## STEP FOUR – PREPARE PEOPLE FOR UPDATED WASTE SYSTEMS

*Education and engagement are the foundation of successful behaviour change.*

Most people are accustomed to collecting organics and recycling at home, which should make it easier when asking employees or property users to change current behaviours. The key to success is helping people understand WHY changes are needed (see page 3) and HOW they can contribute to shared success. Ensuring people understand the ‘why’ and ‘how’ will require education initiatives initially as you plan and launch new waste systems, as well as on an on-going basis.

Engage staff by letting them know in advance that you are updating your waste management. Invite ideas for waste reduction initiatives, bin locations, etc. Think about how you will share education messages about waste, such as during tailgate and orientation meetings, by building waste diversion tips into meetings with site supervisors, posting to bulletin boards or providing regular updates via email.

Make sure your employees understand, that just like wearing appropriate safety wear, sorting waste is part of their job and a requirement at all times. Integrate waste reduction initiatives into your regular work routines. Look for champions in the workplace who can help advance the team towards your waste diversion goals.



Download training and educational materials at [squamish.ca/construction-waste](https://squamish.ca/construction-waste)



### Local Champion!

“This is just what we do here”

One local construction company makes waste management and diversion a key part of workplace culture. For example, all the steel that is collected is sold for recycling and the proceeds are used for site-wide barbecues or lunches. This way, onsite staff reap the benefits of diverting waste and take ownership of waste management practices.

## Curb Contamination Rates

Waste stream contamination occurs when people put waste into the wrong bin. Contamination of waste streams makes it difficult, and in some cases impossible, for recycling and composting facilities to process waste, resulting in it going to landfill. For this reason, properties that do not manage contamination rates can be subject to fines under the District's updated Solid Waste Bylaw.

Help users understand that contamination negatively impacts recycling. Reduce contamination by providing bins for all waste streams produced, clearly label bins and avoid overflow of bins to ensure an alternate stream isn't selected if the required bin is full. Maintain a focus on continual education to keep contamination rates low and ask for feedback from your staff about what is unclear or not working.

**TIP** – be sure to provide adequately labeled garbage bins lined with clear bags throughout your site. This way staff will be able to easily dispose of items such as dirty paint brushes, insulation, particle board, etc.



### Local Champion!

“One of our smarter marketing moves”

In one local business office, waste contamination was a big issue. A staff champion decided to invest in some small bins and created clear signage for each waste stream. By re-organizing their waste area, the company not only drastically reduced contamination, but also found an unexpected marketing opportunity. Impressed office visitors often gather around the waste area, admiring the bins and even taking photos. “I used to look at it as nothing but a cost but now I look at it as a marketing expense” says one staff member.

So what is the secret for such a successful waste management system? “Make it public-facing and then it becomes part of your workplace identity and values. Everyone knows what the right thing to do is – they just need to bring that level of diligence that they have at home into the workplace”.



## Help Make it Easy for People to Sort Waste Correctly

In all properties, it is important to ensure that waste collection points are convenient, clean and simple to use. This will help maximize diversion and minimize contamination on site (or in a building's waste room). Think about the way staff 'flow' through the property and ensure waste stations can be seen, easily accessed and used correctly.

**TIP** – consider using different bins for each stage of construction or deconstruction (e.g. to collect drywall, wood waste, cardboard, etc.). This will not only save space but also money, as you will not need to pay to collect an item until your project is ready. For example, when it is time to install appliances, talk to your hauler about supplying a cardboard bin to recycle boxes and packaging.

### Label All Bins

It is important to label each waste bin to ensure proper use. If workers can't easily tell what a bin is for, it will quickly become contaminated (and you will be charged and possibly fined).

You can even make your own signage, using whatever tools are available. For example, repurpose scrap plywood and paint to create signs that can be relocated and reused as your waste needs change.

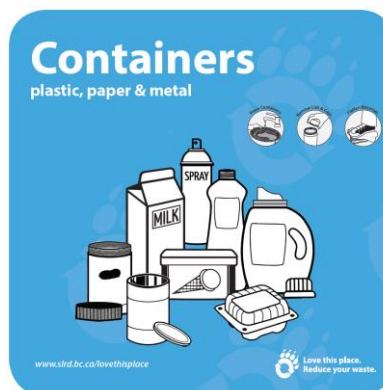
Just be sure that all bins are clearly labeled and that there are enough of each type distributed where they are needed. Remember, the further people have to walk to dispose of an item, the higher the chance of contamination.



**TIP** – Don't forget about waste in the site office! Waste signs and colour schemes are being standardized throughout the Sea to Sky corridor and Vancouver to help people successfully sort waste wherever they are. When choosing which sign to use, consider bin shape and size as well as what information needs to be conveyed.



Download signage at  
[squamish.ca/construction-waste](http://squamish.ca/construction-waste)





## STEP FIVE –MONITOR AND CONTINUALLY ENGAGE

*Adopting a 'Zero Waste' approach helps the environment and the bottom line.*

Use visual checks and ongoing communication with your hauler, employees, contractors, etc. to continually monitor for contaminants in your waste streams, review opportunities to reduce waste, improve waste collection systems, and keep waste diversion on track.

Ongoing monitoring and continued communications will be the key to success in continually reducing waste. Seek out opportunities to share feedback and be creative.

**TIP** – Make waste management a regular part of your site orientations and tailgate meetings. Weekly updates and tips can help keep all staff informed and reflect your commitment to waste diversion.

Always provide information to new staff, contractors, etc. when they come for site orientations and plan for ongoing education initiatives, as required by the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw.

As you plan for the launch of your updated waste systems, infrastructure and processes, and education and engagement efforts, remember you are not alone. Many businesses, properties and communities are already rolling out modernized waste bylaws and there are examples of best practices already in existence.

### Local Champion!

At one local company, waste diversion is serious business. When undergoing construction, staff sought help diverting recyclable material. As builders deposited waste items into piles, labourers then separated it by material: “we let them do whatever they needed to do and then we sorted it all after”. The staff were so committed to diverting renovation waste, they even stripped off plastic wiring to recycle the metal!



# CHECKLIST

## *Reduce waste in Squamish, together.*

Use this checklist to be sure you are in compliance with the Solid Waste Bylaw. You can print this page out and keep it handy as you work through updates to your waste management systems.

### Bylaw Compliance

In order to comply with the Squamish Solid Waste and Wildlife Attractant Bylaws you must:

- ☐ Provide separate bins to collect organics, recyclables, and garbage and contract a hauler to service and dispose of this material.
- ☐ Store wildlife attractants indoors or, if outdoors, locked in wildlife resistant containers.
- ☐ Provide educational information to all new staff about how to separate organics, recyclables, and garbage and how to reduce conflicts with bears.
- ☐ Post adequate signage in waste areas to help staff separate organics, recyclables, and garbage.
- ☐ Post Bear Smart Construction Site signage to remind staff that Squamish is Bear Country.

### Best Practices

To improve your waste management beyond compliance you can:

- ☐ Conduct a waste audit and develop waste reduction goals.
- ☐ Review site and materials management to identify more opportunities for waste reduction.
- ☐ Discuss and incorporate updated waste management plans with all staff, including contractors and supervisors.
- ☐ Require staff to pack out lunch waste and use only reusable mugs for coffee.
- ☐ Find a waste management champion to monitor and continually improve processes.
- ☐ Review purchasing policies in order to identify opportunities for waste reduction.
- ☐ Implement a human-bear conflict reduction plan through education, signage, and providing wildlife resistant refuse containers.

For information and resources visit:  
[squamish.ca/construction-waste](https://squamish.ca/construction-waste)



A ZERO WASTE PATH FOR SQUAMISH WILL  
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY,  
SUPPORT GREEN JOBS AND  
HELP BUILD A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY.

LOVE THIS PLACE, REDUCE YOUR WASTE.



This guide was developed in part by The Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment