



# CONTAMINATION ALERT

February 2020

Dear Resident,

Crisis is perhaps too strong a word, but contamination of recycle material is, in general, a growing problem in North America. In 2018 China stopped accepting recycle materials from around the globe. The result is an oversupply of recyclables, driving values down and processing costs up. The need for maintaining and improving the quality of what is collected is greater than ever.

As you know, recycling processing relies, in part, on separating acceptable materials from garbage. Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are being vigilant in reducing the contamination levels in the materials they are marketing; however, this takes more time and expense.

In order to maintain a strong and effective recycling program, we need your cooperation. Any items listed as acceptable can go in the 'BLUE' recycle cart and any remaining items go in the garbage or an alternative recycling facility, e.g. light bulbs and metal parts. Contaminated recycle loads may result in additional fees being charged back to the municipalities.

If you have any doubt whether or not an item can be recycled, please contact Loraas or at a minimum, *when in doubt put it in the garbage.*

Attached is a helpful poster which outlines our recycling program. This poster details what can and cannot be put in the blue cart or bin.

Thank You, we appreciate your cooperation as we attempt to keep recycle material clean and costs to the municipalities low.

Related News Links:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/recycling-contamination-1.4606893>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/chinese-ban-on-foreign-recyclables-leaving-some-canadian-cities-in-the-lurch/article37536117/>