

The facts about glass



How do I recycle glass?

Glass can be taken to an MMBC depot for recycling. Depots are listed on the MMBC website at www.recyclinginbc.ca.

DID YOU KNOW?

Glass can be taken in with your empties!
Most Abbotsford depots will give you cash for your empties and take your non-refundable glass at the same place!



Why won't glass be accepted in the curbside collection program?

Glass breaks easily during collection and sorting. When it breaks and is collected in the same container as other packaging or printed paper, the shards of glass get embedded in and mixed with the other recyclables and cannot be separated again. This means that neither the glass, nor the other recyclables, can be recycled properly.

Why can't glass be collected in a separate bin?

The collection trucks are not set up to take material separately. Abbotsford currently operates on a single stream pick up service; all recyclables go into one bag and are picked up and put into a truck that has one bin. When mixed with other recyclables, glass often breaks and contaminates other material in the bag. MMBC will not accept glass collected in a single stream system because of this contamination.

The majority of communities that collect glass use a multi-stream collection model and material is separated at the curb. Additionally, the collection trucks for multi-stream recycling have multiple compartments for different materials versus just one collection bin to ensure material is not contaminated. Right now, it is not cost effective for Abbotsford to collect glass at the curb.

How do smaller, single stream communities recycle glass?

Some communities have a smaller service area, and therefore have more options for cost-effectively collecting glass. Due to our large geographical area and over 26,000 households that receive curbside collection, these options are not available for Abbotsford. Other larger communities such as Chilliwack and Surrey also do not provide separate glass collection.

Why is the list of materials accepted in the curbside collection program changing?

MMBC is a province-wide program and collection has to be consistent across all municipalities to ensure everything collected can be recycled.

