

**KEEP FOR
REFERENCE**



RESIDUAL MATERIALS MANAGEMENT GUIDE

Daniel Côté, Mayor of Gaspé



A collective effort

Residual material management is one of our biggest collective challenges today. Each one of our actions impacts our finances ... and our environment!

Materials sent to the technical landfill site (green or black bin) cost 30% more than recycled (blue bin) or composted (brown bin) materials. By correctly sorting our materials at home or at work, we remove contaminants, reduce the amount of material our employees have to sort, we transform recyclable materials into new products, we produce better compost and we save a significant amount of money ... all while improving our environment. Our environmental efforts can indeed save us money! If everyone does their part, our finances and our environment will be better off.

Thank you for participating in this collective effort!



A team who is dedicated to innovation!

The Board of Directors of the RITMRG, recognized throughout Quebec for its creative and innovative approach, has demonstrated its commitment over the past 10 years by implementing, for example, composting, Eco-Centres and an innovative approach to the recycling of glass.

Can we dream of "zero waste"? Perhaps not for tomorrow, but we aim to achieve an equally ambitious goal ... to do better!

To reduce waste, cut costs, reduce the environmental impact, reduce the use of raw materials, reduce the impact on greenhouse gases and increase our sense of pride, this is what motivates us each and every day!

Our team, made up of dedicated, creative and committed people, whom I respectfully acknowledge here, share their goals, suggestions and ideas with you in this guide. Take the time to browse through it, read it, question it, while keeping in mind the people who sort, evaluate and negotiate ... for you. We are confident that by uniting our efforts collectively, we will all reap the benefits!

Nathalie Drapeau, general director, RITMRG



Nathalie Drapeau

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The 4 R-Ds

Given that our planet's resources are limited, it is inherently unsustainable to continually extract, process and dispose of raw materials.

In order to reduce pressure on the environment and to conserve our resources, we ask you to apply the 4 R-D principle, in the following order:



The best waste is no waste!

It is always better to reduce and reuse, before recycling, recovering or throwing an object away.



Make a commitment to reduce your waste by trying some of helpful suggestions!

Check (✓) the suggestions you already use, or get started, one step at a time!

I Reduce...

- ☐ I bring my reusable bags to the grocery store.
- ☐ I buy large formats or in bulk.
- ☐ I bring my mug and reusable cutlery with me.
- ☐ I don't use flyers or bags from the grocery store.
- ☐ I borrow certain tools from friends and family instead of buying them.

I Reuse...

- ☐ I buy, repair and donate my used clothing, furniture and electronics.
- ☐ I organize a clothing swap with my friends.
- ☐ I reuse my glass and plastic containers.
- ☐ I visit the Eco-Centre to find wood, windows and even furniture.

I Recycle...

- ☐ I learn about materials that are accepted in the blue bin (see page 10).
- ☐ I use the Ça va où ? app when I'm not sure which bin to use.
- ☐ I choose recyclable and compostable packaging.
- ☐ I compost. Yes, composting is the recycling of organic matter!

I Recover...

- ☐ I learn about the materials that are accepted at my local Eco-Centre (see page 18).
- ☐ I have a place to store items meant for the Eco-Centre until a trip is necessary.
- ☐ I ask my contractor to sort the waste from construction/renovation projects.

I Dispose...

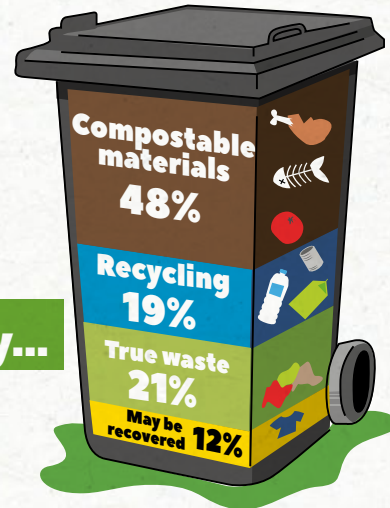
- ☐ Only real waste, things that cannot be recycled, composted or brought to the Eco-centre.
- ☐ As little as possible by reducing my consumption.

Throwing our money ...in the garbage

Did you know ?

- Each year, the City of Gaspé spends close to \$3 million on residual material management (RMM).
- Landfill use costs approximately twice as much as recycling and composting.
- Only 21% of the material in the garbage bin can be considered «actual waste». The other 79% can be recycled, composted and recovered.

**Sorting your materials correctly...
it pays off for everyone.**



**We
need
your
help!**

A lot of work still ahead

In order to achieve our waste reduction goals, everyone must lend a helping hand: the public, businesses in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors (ICI), as well as construction, renovation and demolition contractors (CRD).

At the provincial level, RECYC-QUÉBEC has identified a number of objectives in its action plan for 2019–2024, specifically to reduce landfill use and increase the recovery rate of recyclable and organic materials.

Despite the many efforts that have been undertaken (three-way curb collection, awareness campaigns, the creation of Eco-Centres), landfill use still has not significantly decreased. We therefore have a lot of work ahead of order to increase the volume of recycled, composted recovered materials.



Objectives and results

Reduce to
525 kg
or less
the quantity of waste generated
per person annually

2019 results
600 kg

Recycle
75%
of all paper, cardboard,
glass, plastic and metals

2019 results
54 %

Compost
60%
of all organic matter

2019 results
20 %

Your role as a citizen

- Reduce your waste at the source;
- Participate actively in the collection of your brown and blue bins;
- Deposit your recyclable materials, such as construction or hazardous materials, at you Eco-Centre;
- Take out your garbage and blue bins only when they are full.

Our role at the RITMRG

- Answer ALL your questions;
- Ensure access to all necessary resources;
- Provide the collection, transportation and processing of your materials

In 2019,
50%
of the population
participated in
composting.

**We can
do
better!**



A new bylaw to reduce landfill use!

Why a new set of regulations?

In spite of all our best efforts, with the creation of new infrastructures and numerous awareness campaigns, 57% of all material generated in the City of Gaspé is still sent to the landfill site.

Of this material, only 21% can be considered true waste. This means that in 2019, more than 3,000 tonnes of materials could have been recycled, composted or recovered instead!



The new regulations will help us to achieve our goals in:

- Reducing landfill use;
- Improving our services;
- Improving the quality of materials;
- Reducing costs.

The regulations clarify the roles and responsibilities of each individual, whether they are a resident, property owner or administrators.

To consult the new regulations, visit ville.gaspe.qc.ca.



#1

Participation is mandatory

All residents, ICI establishments² and multi-unit housing³ are required to correctly sort their residual materials, by using curbside three-way collection and the Eco-centres. This means:

- Respecting the lists of accepted materials for each type of collection;
- Following the guidelines on how to compost, recycle and use the services at the Eco-centre, etc.;
- Respect the curbside collection guidelines;
- If you own an apartment building or an ICI², ensure that your tenants respect the regulations, and provide them with the required bins.

#2

The number and type of containers permitted

Occupancy type	Number of containers	Type of containers
Residential 4 units or less	1 bin per category, per unit (240 L or 360 L wheeled bin)	
ICI Multi-unit housing³	According to your needs Limit of 4 bins or one container per category	

#3

Painting of bins is prohibited

Painted bins will not be accepted for collection to avoid confusion by the operators... and your neighbors!

#4

In case of damage

- If the operator damages your bin, you have 5 days to report the damage to the contractor.
- The bins are guaranteed for 10 years, after which repairs may be at your expense.

#5

Electronic chips

All bins and containers must have an RFID chip, linked to the appropriate address. You must therefore notify the RITMRG if you are taking your bins to a new address, or if you purchase a new bin.

#6

Illegal dumping

It is prohibited for you to throw anything into a bin or container that does not belong to you, or worse, out in the open!

#7

Collection schedule

Your bin must be placed curbside the day before scheduled pick-up. The bin must be removed no later than 8:00 PM the day of the scheduled collection. See why on the next page.

Will there be any fines?

In the event of non-compliance, we will prioritize the following sequence of intervention:

- 1) Courtesy notice
- 2) Written notice
- 3) Refusal of service

In the event that the regulations are still not respected, individuals will be subject to fines.

Definitions:

1. CRD: Construction, renovation and demolition
2. ICI: Industrial, commercial and institutional establishments
3. Multi-unit housing: Residential building with 5 or more units

Collection guidelines

Why follow these guidelines?

- To avoid forgetting to take out your bins for curbside pick up;
- To prevent damage;
- To help us to help you!

What type of containers are allowed?

- 240 L or 360 L wheeled bins



Recycling

Trash

Compost

- IMPORTANT: Your bin must retain its original colour. Painted bins will not be accepted for curbside pickup!
- Other options are available for industrial, commercial or institutional establishments. Please call us for more information.

Write your street address on each of your bins.
(This will help us to correctly identify them)

Take out your bin the day before scheduled pickup.

Why? Because the truck can pass as early as 6 a.m.

Leave a two-foot clearance around the bin (between a fence, a car or even another bin).

In order for the brown bin to be clearly visible to the operator, place it to the right of any other bin.

To find out how to proceed in case of damage, call us or visit our website ritmrg.ca as soon as you notice the problem.

Ensure that no materials are sticking out or are on the ground next to the bin.

Placed at a maximum distance of 10 feet from the white pavement line, neither on the sidewalk nor on the street.

Wheels pointing towards the house.



To view your collection schedule, please refer to the calendar which is distributed to your home each year, or visit www.ritmrg.ca

In winter

Place your bin at a distance of approximately 10 feet from the white line to prevent damage from the snowplow. In the event of a winter storm, collection may be delayed...

So leave your bin by the curb!

Frequently asked questions

#1

Why put electronic chips on the bins?



The operator is authorized to refuse pickup.

At the RITMRG, we pride ourselves on being innovative as well as generating savings. We therefore deserve intelligent curbside pickup!

Electronic chips allow us to:

- Follow the truck on its rounds in real time;
- Know where and when your bins have been emptied by the operator;
- Calculate the participation rates for the curbside pickup;
- To eventually implement an incentive-based pricing policy.

#2

What to do if my bin is damaged or if it hasn't been picked up?

Call the contractor as soon as you notice any damage or a missed pickup. Visit our website for the contact information.

- There are several reasons why your bin may not have been picked up:
 - Failure to comply with any of the instructions presented in this guide;
 - Presence of contaminants in your bin.



#3

Where can I get a new bin?

- Garbage or recycling: at most hardware stores
- Compost: Call us!
418-368-2104, ext. 8507 or 8509



You're moving?

You must notify us if you are moving into a new home, or if any bins will be relocated! We will then be able to assign your bins to the correct address.

How to reach us?

418-368-2104, ext. 8509 or 8507

Why recycle?



Recycling

	Accepted materials	How to recycle?	Non recyclable
In general	<p>Is it a CONTAINER, PACKAGING or a PRINTED PUBLICATION?</p> <p>Is it made of paper, cardboard, plastic, glass or metal?</p> <p>If so, it can likely be recycled! To be certain, see below!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove corks, stoppers and lids; Empty and lightly rinse all containers. 	<p>Here are a few examples of contaminants that are often sent to the sorting centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food; Textiles (clothing, carpets, sheets, etc.); Snack and chip bags, non-recyclable plastic packaging; Biomedical waste; Diapers; Long items (garden hose, electrical wire, etc.); Toys; Objects made with mixed materials; Styrofoam.
Paper and cardboard	<p>Newspapers, circulars, magazines, books, catalogues, phone-books, brown paper bags, white and coloured paper, envelopes, cardboard boxes, egg cartons, juice and milk cartons (Tetra Pak®), lottery tickets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate the different materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove flyers from the Publisac; Remove plastic packaging from the cardboard boxes. Break down the boxes; Place shredded paper in a clear bag; What is the best container for these materials? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If they are clean, the blue bin; If they are soiled (food, grease, etc.), the brown bin. 	
Plastic	<p>All plastic containers featuring one of these symbol (except #6),</p> <p>bags and transparant plastic wrappers (ex. Saran Wrap)</p>	<p>See diagram on next page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soft plastic (bags and wrappers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place all materials in a clear plastic bag and tie securely. Hard plastic (containers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove corks, stoppers and lids; Empty and lightly rinse all containers. 	
	<p>Wine, beer and liquor bottles, all glass containers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty and lightly rinse all containers. 	
Metal	<p>Canned foods, aluminium foil and containers, lids, beer caps, cans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty and lightly rinse all containers. 	

Did you know?

The Grande-Rivière material recovery and sorting facility has already received a boa constrictor, several moose carcasses and dog feces. If you would like to see everything that we receive at the sorting facility and better understand what we do on a daily basis, subscribe to our Facebook page. Put a little respect in your bin!



19% of what you put in the trash bin should have been recycled. Why not give a second life to these materials, and by doing so:

- Extend the life of the landfill site by reducing the amount of waste generated;
- Generate income from the sale of recycled materials, thus reducing the cost of waste management;
- Maintain over 15 jobs created at the material recovery and sorting facility in Grande-Rivière;
- Manufacture new goods from recycled materials, thus reducing our impact on the environment.



Plastic

How to know what can be recycled?

Soft plastic (bags and wrapping)

Does it stretch?

YES

Place all in a plastic transparent bag and tie it up.

NO

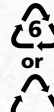
Hard plastic (containers)

Does it feature one of these symbols?

YES



NO



Do you often wonder

«Where does this go?»

You're not sure whether that milk carton or those yogurt containers go into the recycling?

Use the Ça va où? mobile app from RECYC-QUÉBEC.



Myths about recycling

Myth #1

Recyclable materials from the blue bin just end up in the trash.

FALSE!

All your materials, if they are truly recyclable, will be sorted by our employees at the Grande-Rivière material recovery and sorting facility, then shipped to recyclers located primarily in Quebec. However, each year we receive 8% to 15% of contaminants that will have to be sent to landfill.

Myth #2

Glass can't be recycled, and ends up in the landfill site.

FALSE!

Since 2017, the *Innovative Glass Works* plan has allowed the Grande-Rivière material recovery and sorting facility to recycle 100% of all glass collected. This glass is transformed into an aggregate that can be used in landscaping, walking paths, as a street abrasive, etc. Are you planning to develop a landscaping or art project with glass?

Contact us for more information or visit our website at ritmrg.ca.



Myth #3

In case of doubt, I use the blue bin. That's what the sorters are for!

FALSE!

Sorters already have enough work separating the appropriate materials, they don't need to sort your trash as well! Furthermore, contaminants can cause equipment failure, interfere with operations and must be sent to the landfill site. Please inquire before placing any material you are not sure about in the blue bin or throw it in the trash.

Myth #4

Rinsing the containers wastes too much water.

FALSE!

The amount of water you will use to rinse your container is negligible compared to the amount needed to produce a new one.

Myth #5

Cans placed in the blue bin are not recycled

FALSE!

All cans and other refundable containers are sorted, sold and recycled. The return deposit collected is used by the RITMRG to help reducing operating costs, thereby reducing your tax!



Compost

Why use

the brown bin?

Since 2018, the City of Gaspé has implemented curbside compost collection.

We have observed that only 50% of residents compost. Residents and businesses alike all have a role to play. We can do better!

Starting in 2021, all taxpayers will be required to sort their materials, thus participating in the collection of organic materials.

Follow the lead and compost!



- To reduce property taxes;



- To protect the environment by reducing landfill waste and greenhouse gases;



- To produce a quality compost locally.

Did you know?

We have produced several video clips with tips for composting. Check out the "capsules vidéo" section of our website at ritmrg.ca!

The equivalent of 8000 tonnes CO₂ is prevented from entering the atmosphere by your use of the brown bin.

*1 tonne CO₂ = a road trip from Montreal to Vancouver



How to use the brown bin

Are you reluctant to compost? You have been composting but it's not going the way you'd like? Try the tips and suggestions on the following pages to help you become a composting pro!

Composting, it's not rocket science!

Start gradually, beginning with vegetable peels, bruised fruit, eggshells and green waste. Once you are comfortable with these materials, continue with meat, fish and seafood.

How to keep the bin clean and prevent materials from sticking to it in winter?

Avoid placing liquids in the bin.



Place organic matter in a paper bag.



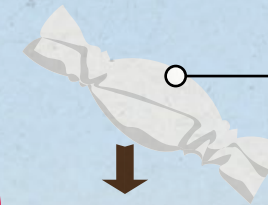
Apply a menthol based ointment (eg. Vicks) around the rim of the bin to keep animals away.

To prevent organic matter from freezing and sticking to the bin in winter, place a large paper yard waste bag on top of the layer of leaves.

Place a layer of dead leaves or paper/cardboard at the bottom of the bin.

How to avoid bad odours, flies and worms?

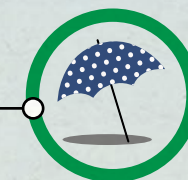
Wrap meat, fish and seafood in newspaper before placing it in the bin.



If maggots still get into your bin, sprinkle baking soda into it or spray with vinegar.



Freeze foul-smelling organic waste and place it in the bin the night before collection day.







Store your bin in the shade.

Cover kitchen scraps with dry matter (green waste, newspapers, etc.).

Take out your bin on every scheduled collection day in the summer.



Accepted Materials	
What can be put in the bin? Food scraps, green waste and soiled paper/cardboard products are all accepted in the brown bin!	
Food waste	 <p>Fruits and vegetables, table scraps, meat and poultry (including bones and fat), fish (including fish bones and fat), seafood (including shells), bread, pasta and other grain products, eggs and shells, milk products, nut shells, desserts and other sweets, coffee (grounds or beans and filters), tea bags, pet food.</p>
Green waste	 <p>Dead leaves, grass cuttings, weeds, hay, turf, plants, flowers, small branches and hedge clippings (maximum of one inch in diameter, and the bin cover must be able to close), wood chips and sawdust, sand and dirt</p>
Other organic materials	 <p>Paper towels, napkins and paper tissues, newspaper, soiled paper and cardboard products (pizza boxes, muffin baking cups, placemats, parchment paper, etc.), compostable tableware (cutlery, food trays, compostable plastics, etc.), all types of animal litter (loose or in a paper bag).</p> <div>  <p>YES! Paper tissues, as well as paper towels and animal litter, are indeed accepted, since all harmful micro-organisms, such as viruses, are destroyed by the composting process.</p> </div>
Materials not accepted	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic bags (including compostable or biodegradable bags) Diapers and sanitary products Packaging and containers made of glass, plastic or metal Clothing and fabrics <p>NO GLASS, PLASTIC OR METAL</p>	



Each year, the composting site receives **approximately 55 tonnes of contaminants** that should not have been placed in the brown bins, including plastic, glass and metal.

These materials must be removed manually by employees at the composting site, which requires a significant amount of time and work.



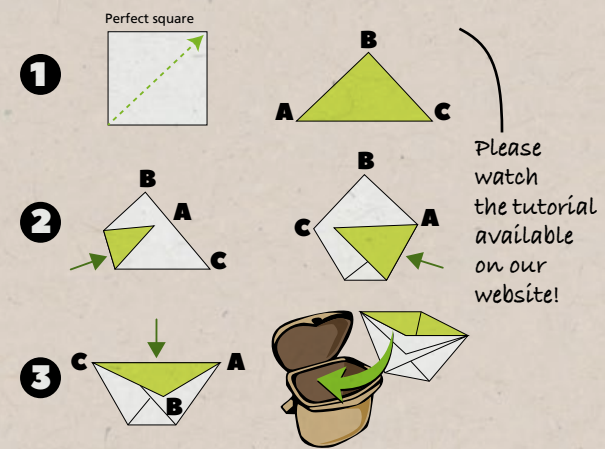
Frequently asked questions

What type of bag can I use?

Compostable plastic bags are NOT accepted in the brown bins. To collect your organic waste, consider using :

- Paper bags
- Paper bags with a leak-proof lining (e.g. Bag to Earth)
- Newspapers

Here's how to fold your newspaper to make the perfect bag for your countertop composter!



Can I purchase the compost?

The compost produced at the Chandler composting site is available for sale in both bulk and 30-litre bags. Two types of compost are produced:

- Urban compost produced from residential and commercial organic waste;
- Marine compost produced from organic waste sourced from seafood processing plants.

To learn more about points of sale and availability, visit our website at ritmrg.ca.

Can I use the compost from the RITMRC in my garden?

Absolutely! This is a category A1 compost. Before being sold, each lot is sampled and tested in a laboratory to ensure its quality. You will find quality analysis information and instructions for use on our website.

Take it to the next level. Try Grasscycling!

Leaving lawn clippings on the ground is good for your lawn! In addition to producing a natural fertilizer, it protects your lawn from drought, helps develop its natural resistance to disease and reduces the need for maintenance, all while saving you time!

Try Leafcycling

Use your lawnmower to mulch your leaves in the fall and feed your lawn all winter. This can also be used in your garden and flower beds!



48% of waste we produce at home can be composted!



Eco-Centres

~~garbage dump~~
~~junk yard~~



Why use an Eco-centre?

Wrongly called a garbage dump or junk yard, the Eco-centre is an important facility used for diverting a significant amount of materials from landfill. These materials can either be recycled or managed in a way that is safe for our health and the environment.

How to proceed?

- Before visiting the Eco-centre, have your materials separated into their respective categories;
- Have proof of residence on hand;
- If you are transporting materials for someone else, complete the proxy form available on our website;
- For Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):
 - Dispose of materials in their original containers, clearly identified and tightly sealed;
 - Do not mix different products together;
 - Never throw products in the garbage or down the drain.

How much it cost?

The first tonne (sorted) costs only \$10!

Visit our website for rates after the first tonne.

Psst! A sorted load costs 20% less than a unsorted load!



We still find **12%** of recoverable materials in residential garbage bins.

Some examples of recovered materials.

- 1) Unsound wood and asphalt shingles are crushed and mixed together to be used as cover material at the landfill site. As a result, materials that have very little market value are used in place of soil or gravel.
- 2) Branches will be processed into wood chips and integrated into the compost site.



- 3) Used oil, paint and tires are transformed into new materials by specialized businesses.

We are always looking for better methods to recover these materials.



Contact information

1050, montée Wakeham
Gaspé (Québec)
418-368-0565

Time Schedule

Winter

From January 1st to mid-April and all of December

Wednesday and Friday
7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Summer

From mid-April to mid-October

From Monday to Friday
7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Saturday:

7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Fall

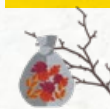
From mid-October to the end of November

From Monday to Friday
7:30 AM to 12:00 PM
12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

*The Eco-Centre is closed on public holidays. Visit our website for a more detailed information.

Accepted materials

Free at all time



Green Waste

Branches, bags of leaves (paper, transparent or orange bags)



Metals

Scrap metals (ferrous and non-ferrous)



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Batteries, vehicle batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs and tubes, paints, primers, paint thinners, cooking oil, motor oil and empty containers, acids or ammonia, fertilizers and pesticides, cleaning products and scouring materials.



End-of-life electronics

Televisions, computers, keyboards, display monitors, photocopiers, cell phones, chargers, etc. Please visit our website for more detailed information



Tires

Tires with a maximum size of 48 inches, with or without rims



Recyclable materials

Occasional surplus items

Applicable rates



Construction, renovation and demolition waste (CRD)

Asphalt shingles, drywall, vinyl siding, insulation, aggregate waste (concrete, brick, asphalt, stone), windows, sound wood (pallets, branches, untreated wood), unsound wood (painted, stained, treated), etc.



Oversized materials

Large appliances, tubs, sinks, toilettes, furniture, mattresses, box springs, large toys, bicycles, rugs and other floor coverings, water heaters, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, etc.

Prohibited materials

All materials containing asbestos

Contaminated soil



Contact your nearest Eco-Centre to learn how to safely dispose of these materials.

Special collections

How does it work?

The reason for this collection

The collection of large, bulky items each spring allows residents to get rid of materials that are too big for the bins, free of charge. The commercial sector can use the Eco-Centre.

How to dispose of my oversized materials?

- Take your items out a maximum of 24 hours beforehand.
- Ensure that they are easily accessible and not placed on the street. This means:
 - In your driveway
 - At a maximum distance of two metres from the street
 - Easily accessible (not behind a ditch)
- Separate tires, metals from the rest of the materials.

Why? Because they will be gathered separately to be recovered at the Eco-Centre

Attention!

This collection is only for the residential sector.



Oversized materials

Green waste
(on request)

Dead leaves (in bags), branches and other green waste in large quantities.

- Call us before November 5 at 418 368-2104 ext. 8507;
- Indicate how many bags you have;
- place your items curbside the night before the collection;
- follow the same guidelines as for the collection of oversized materials.

Types of bags accepted for dead leaves and garden waste:

- Paper bags;
- Orange or transparent plastic bags.

Branches must be:

- attached in bundles weighing a maximum of 25 kg;
- measure a maximum length of 3 feet with a 1 inch diameter.

HHW
Collection
days

On these days, bring your household hazardous waste (HHW) and your end-of-life electronics to the Gaspé arena. **You will find the HHW dates the calendar and on our website ritmrg.ca.**

Free
Saturdays

Three times a year, take advantage the opportunity to bring items, listed as accepted materials, to the Eco-Centre, free of charge. In addition, on these days you may bring these items to the municipal garage in Rivière-au-Renard. **You will find the dates calendar and on our website at ritmrg.ca.**

These materials are accepted at the Eco-Centre all year long!

Accepted materials

Objects must respect the following requirements:

- Maximum length of 7 feet;
- Maximum volume of 3 m³;
- Maximum weight of 150 kg

Oversized Materials

- Large appliances, heaters and air conditioners;
- Bathtubs, sinks, toilettes;
- Furniture, mattresses and box springs;
- Large toys, bicycles;
- Rugs and floor coverings;
- Residential construction materials;
- Propane tanks.



Metals

- Ferrous and non-ferrous metals;
- Steel cables;
- Water tanks and heaters.



Tires

- With a maximum diameter of 48 inches
- Maximum of four tires per household.



Not accepted

- Garbage bags; recyclable or compostable materials;
- Construction, renovation or demolition materials from the commercial sector;
- Styrofoam;
- Logs and stumps;
- Car frames;
- Asphalt shingles;
- Animal carcasses;
- Gas or oil tanks;
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

Branches of evergreen and deciduous trees

(see dimensions on previous page)

Dead leaves

(see accepted bags on previous page)

Grass cuttings

Garden waste



Did you know?

60% oversized materials collected are recovered, not sent to landfill.

For a complete list of accepted materials, please refer to the sections on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and End-of-life electronics on page 19.



For a complete list of accepted materials, please refer to the Eco-center section on page 19.





Landfill:

The black sheep of residual material management

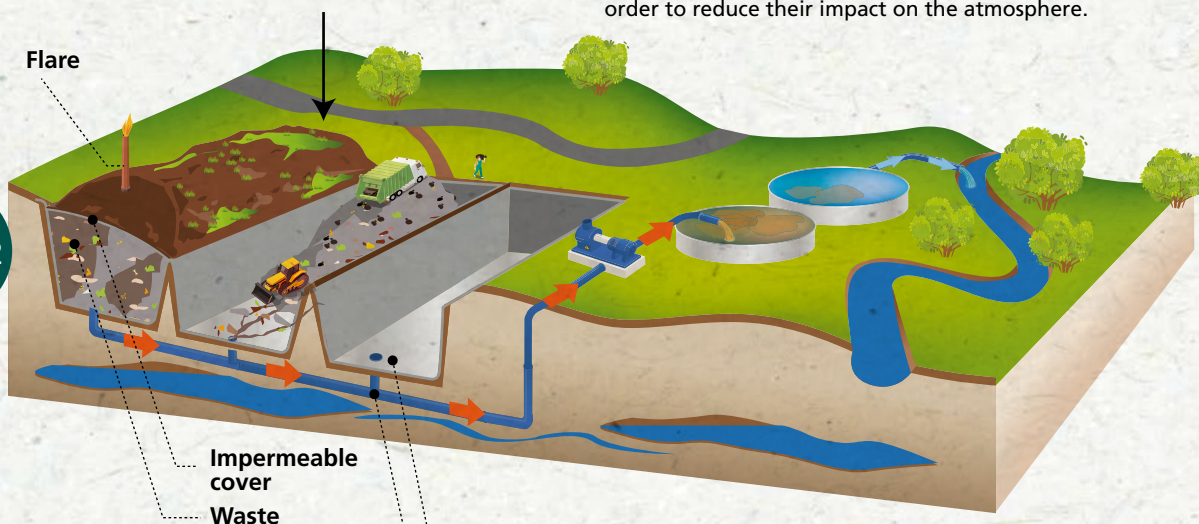
Why does it cost so much?

A technical landfill site is like a large watertight swimming pool. Every five years, two large landfill cells (two large pits) are built, at a cost of \$2.5 million, to accommodate the 20,000 tonnes of waste received each year (about 1000 truckloads).

In order to protect the environment, it is necessary to...

...manage the gases produced

Biogases are produced by the decomposition of buried organic matter. They are then captured and burned in order to reduce their impact on the atmosphere.



...manage the water

Water resistant geomembrane: an impermeable membrane lines the bottom to prevent liquids from leaching into the ground.

Drainage of water into treatment basins

These liquids are treated to remove contaminants. They are then analyzed to confirm that they meet a series of strict standards and requirements before being released into the river.

Did you know?

The equivalent of eight Olympic swimming pools of contaminated water is treated each year.

By avoiding placing compostable materials, HHW and end-of-life electronics in the garbage in your garbage, we can reduce these treatment costs!

Expensive equipment and facilities, high operating costs...How to help reduce these costs?

By properly sorting your waste! True waste accounts for only 21% of all material sent to the landfill site¹. The remaining material can be placed in the brown or blue bins.

¹ According to a study carried out in 2015 at the Gaspé landfill site (for the residential sector).

Only
21%

of material found in your garbage bin can be considered «true waste».



So what is considered "true waste"?

Non-recyclable plastics



No. 6 plastics (styrofoam, coffee lids, etc.), packaging with no recycling codes, individual-serving yogurt containers, plastic utensils, straws, coffee stir sticks, non-stretch wrapping, tape, stickers.

Mixed material packaging



Potato chip and snack bags, laminated bags (several layers of plastic, aluminum or cardboard), metallized plastics (snack bars, chocolate), gum wrappers.

Non-reusable fabrics



All fabrics that are too worn to be donated to a thrift store or other type of community organization should be disposed of in the garbage.

Personal hygiene products



Diapers, sanitary napkins and tampons, makeup removers and baby wipers, dental floss, toothbrushes

Other



Hair, vacuum cleaner dust, dryer lint, cigarette butts, ceramics, incandescent light bulbs.

Materials not accepted

All materials accepted in the brown and blue bins are NOT ACCEPTED in your garbage bin. You must sort your items to make sure that you only have "true waste" in the bin.





Materials that don't belong in the garbage



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Frequently asked questions



Garbage or compost, isn't it all the same?

Not at all. Unlike composting, when you put a banana peel in the garbage, it decomposes very slowly and produces methane gas. Furthermore, it costs more to process and does not produce any compost.

Pssst ... the new city bylaw requires you to sort your waste materials...



Is it possible to request another garbage bin?

By actively participating in composting and recycling, you are unlikely to need a second garbage bin. The majority of household waste is compostable or recyclable. However, if a second bin is necessary, you can purchase one, and your tax bill will be adjusted accordingly.

Are we sending less to the landfill?

In Gaspé, landfill use has decreased by 22% from 2009 to 2019, mainly due to the construction of the Eco-Centre in 2017, and the implementation of the brown bins in 2018. However, we are still sending over 600 kg of waste per resident to landfill each year; we should be below 525 kg of waste per resident.

A lot of effort is still needed in order to further reduce landfill use.

Takin out the garbage once a year, a legend?

You may be wondering what looks like the contents of the garbage bin of someone who respects the guidelines and suggestions presented in this guide, not a model individual, but someone who:

1. Considers their choices as a consumer in order to reduce waste at the source.
2. Learns how to correctly sort materials that can be recycled, composted and recovered, throwing away only "real waste".

We tested this for you and the results were amazing:



Only **38%** of households wait until their garbage bin is full before taking it out. Taking out your recycling and garbage bins only when they are full helps reduce operation costs and the production of greenhouse gases. It is a different matter for the brown bin; take it out regularly.

More specifically, the garbage bin contained:



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What if

we all accepted this challenge together?

Share your experiences and suggestions on our Facebook page or by email.

Our innovations

At the RITMRG, the spirit of innovation is at the forefront of our decision-making. For the past several years, we have undertaken a number of projects that have made you and us all leaders in the field of residual material management in Quebec.

Good things come in threes

In 2012, the MRC du Rocher-Percé was the first municipal organization on the Gaspé Peninsula to have implemented three-way collection (recycling, compost and waste).

In 2018, the City of Gaspé followed suit by adding door-to-door compost collection (the brown bin). This service is not only offered to the residential sector, but to the industrial sector as well. This provides us with even more materials which can be composted.



Intelligent waste collection using electronic chips!

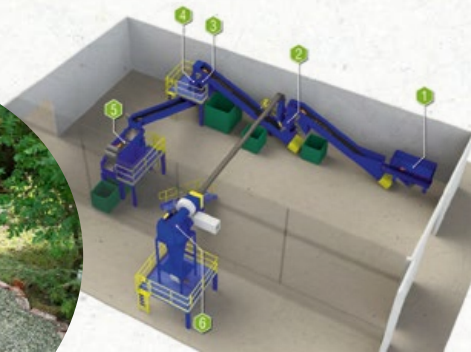
The City of Gaspé and the MRC du Rocher-Percé are among the few municipalities in North America to have implemented the use of electronic chips. The purpose of these chips is to improve the monitoring of collection operations and respond more quickly to citizens. Please refer to page 9 to learn more about electronic chips!



VERRE L'INNOVATION

Glass recycling poses certain challenges in a number of regions of Quebec, primarily due to the lack of markets for glass recovered from the blue bins. In 2016, Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) and RECYC-QUÉBEC supported the «Innovative Glass Works» plan. This allowed the RITMRG to acquire new equipment capable of transforming glass into an aggregate for local and regional recycling. The Grande-Rivière sorting center has since been recovering, transforming and selling nearly 400 tonnes of glass aggregates a year. This glass product can be used in landscaping, as a road abrasive and much more.

Visit www.ritmrg.ca for details and examples of innovative projects that have used our locally produced recycled glass.

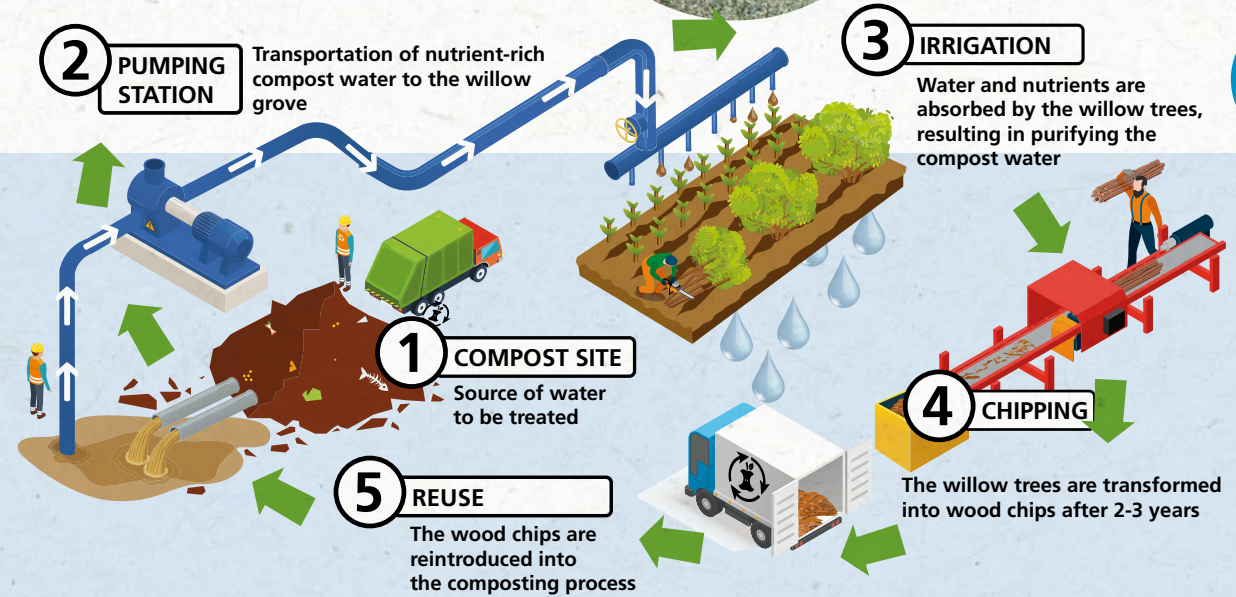


Willow trees to the rescue!



During the composting process, an impressive amount of liquid, called compost water, must be treated. Up until 2017, approximately 230 tanker trucks transported this liquid from the composting site to the Chandler wastewater treatment plant.

Since in 2019, compost water is pumped from the composting site to the former Chandler sanitary landfill site, where a grove of willows has been planted. The willows will feed on the nutrient-rich compost water and purify it. After two to or three years of growth, the willows will be converted into wood chips and reintegrated into the composting process. This innovative project makes it possible to reduce the cost of water treatment, **to recover a degraded site and to reuse the available nutrients. Furthermore, it enables us to obtain a supply of wood chips.**



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in your area!



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You still have questions
after having read the
guide? Call us at
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