



Community Event Tote Program Guide

The Community Event Tote Program was created to provide an opportunity for non-profit organizations and school districts to encourage waste diversion by offering recycling, organics, and refundable beverage collection totes at events. These totes are intended to collect items such as paper, food packaging, soiled paper products, food waste, and refundable beverage containers. Garbage totes are also provided for materials that cannot be recycled or composted.

Each tote is equipped with an educational decal to ensure that materials are correctly separated and disposed of. This guide also addresses what to do with confusing items to prevent contamination.

Accepted Materials

Recycling: household packaging (paper, metal, plastic), and paper products.

- All items must be clean and free of any liquids or food residue.

Refundables: Any ready-to-drink beverage container that can be returned for a refund.

- This excludes: homebrew bottles, growlers, and mason jars.
- Leave caps on where possible, and push juice box straws in.

Organics: napkins, tissues, paper towel, soiled paper containers, cooked and/or raw food.

- This excludes pet waste and compostable or biodegradable plastics (see below).

Garbage: Any material that cannot be recycled or composted.

What to do with Confusing Items

Contaminants in recycling and organics totes can break sorting machines, affect worker safety, negatively impact the final product and increase overall costs. See the list of common confusing items to ensure correct waste separation at your event.

Compostable & Biodegradable Plastics: Plastic bags and containers labelled 'compostable' or 'biodegradable' often do not sufficiently break down in commercial composting facilities. Place these items in the garbage to prevent these materials from contaminating recycling or composting processes.

Non-Refundable Glass Packaging: While glass bottles and jars can be recycled, these materials must be collected separately to ensure that they do not break and intermix with other recyclables. Once broken, glass pieces are unrecoverable and create health and safety concerns for staff at sorting facilities.

Parchment & Wax Paper: Most parchment and wax papers are coated in silicone or a petroleum-based wax. Please put these materials in the garbage.

Pet Waste: Pet waste can be a health hazard and should be bagged and put in the garbage.

Have questions?

Contact CVRD Engineering Services — Monday to Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm (excluding holidays)
Recycling Hotline: 250.746.2540 | Email: RWM@cvrd.bc.ca