

What You Need to Know When Bringing Waste to 7 Mile Landfill and Recycling Center

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7 Mile Landfill and Recycling Center (7MLRC) is the North Island's one stop disposal location for most of your garbage and recycling needs. When you take your materials to 7MLRC, you can be assured that it will be handled in an environmentally responsible manner. The staff and contractors at the landfill are knowledgeable about proper handling on a wide range of materials but it is also vital that users of the landfill act responsibly in managing their waste materials for both the safety of the public and the environment. This document has been written so that users of 7MLRC can learn how to responsibly use the landfill to meet as many of their needs as possible.

No Charge for Recyclables!

One of the easiest ways to lower your costs when visiting the landfill is to separate your recyclables from your garbage and put them in the proper designated drop off. There are no charges for recyclables but if you mix them in your garbage, your load will be charged at double the normal tipping fee rate. The following table shows what can be dropped off for free as recyclables:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Cardboard | Residential Packaging | Electronics |
| Electric Appliances | Paint** | Batteries |
| Household Hazardous Waste** | Light Bulbs | Metal |
| Books | Magazines & Newspapers | Used Oil** |
| Metal | Tires** | |

** Sometime items/materials in these categories are not eligible being industrial/commercial. Ask a landfill employee if uncertain whether an item can be recycled.

Separating Wood and Metal and Save... or Don't and Pay Extra

7MLRC is trying to divert as much organic material from being buried in the landfill. Wood whether it's a log from the forest floor or the painted boards from an old fence are charged at a fraction of the normal tipping fee. Fine garden waste such as branches, leaves, plant cuttings, etc. are charged nothing if their diameter is less than 2 inches. When bringing wood waste, makes sure it has no metal or rocks in the load or a large tipping fee will be charged. This penalty is because the wood waste goes through a grinder so it can be composted, and metal and rocks will damage the equipment. Nails, screws, hinges etc. are not a problem. If wood waste is found in regular garbage, the tipping fee is doubled so save your money and sort.

Likewise metallic waste can be brought to 7MLRC as a recyclable and there will be no charge but if found mixed in a load, the tipping fee for the load is doubled. If a load is found with metal and/or wood waste plus other recyclable materials such as electronics, cardboard, batteries, paint, etc., the whole load's tipping free could tripled. So take advantage of reduced or even free tipping fee disposal costs as opposed to being charged significantly

Dangerous Items

Every year workers in the solid waste industry are put at risk by the reckless action of people who place dangerous items in their garbage as opposed to properly disposing these items. Frequently staff at the landfill discover pressurized cylinders like fire extinguishers, propane tanks, ammunition, explosives, etc. in the waste stream. There are proper disposal methods for these materials and putting them in your garbage or dropping them off in a dumpster are not one of them. If landfill staff discover these items in garbage, a fine of \$300/item will be charged.

Demolition Waste

Whether you are doing a reno project or tearing down a derelict structure to make way for a new use of the land, there are rules and regulations that need to be followed to avoid major fines and large tipping fees. The largest factor to consider when doing a demolition job is the presence of asbestos in drywall and other waste materials. If you go to www.rdmw.bc.ca/regional-services/solid-waste/, you can download a document at the “RDMW Drywall Disposal Program and Information Sheet” which provides detailed information on disposal of drywall/asbestos waste. For some additional help check out the following frequently asked questions.

If I have Asbestos Waste, How can I Dispose of it at 7MLRC?

The rules for managing asbestos vary depending on the circumstances. If you are a homeowner, the asbestos waste needs to be double bagged or wrapped in plastic that is rated as being 6 mil or thicker. Most garbage bags are thinner than 6 mil so you will need to purchase bags or plastic film that meets specifications. The landfill sells proper bags at cost and staff can show you what to look for. Once you have your waste bagged, it is critical that it not be over filled and be sealed so that it can not burst open when being handled.

If you have a contractor or get someone other than yourself to transport the asbestos to the landfill, the asbestos waste material still needs to be double wrapped but there is also documentation that is also needed. WorkSafe BC requires that demolition jobs carried out by paid workers must have a Hazardous Material Inventory (HMI) carried prior to the commencement of the work. When a commercial load of demolition waste arrives at the landfill, the scale office attendant will ask for a copy of the HMI. If its no provided, the load will be rejected. The other requirement for commercial loads waste loads containing asbestos is they need to be accompanied by at Transport Canada Movement Document which is also called a Manifest Form. This document tracks the movement of hazardous materials from where they originated to their final disposal site.

Does all Drywall have Asbestos?

Drywall seldom if ever had asbestos but rather it was put in the mud that filled in the cracks. By the early 1980s, workplace regulations had banned the use of asbestos, but its use lingered for a few years afterwards. Conventional practice is that if demolition material was originally installed after 1990, it can be assumed to be asbestos free. Most sheets of drywall have the date of manufacture stamped on them or have a CSA or other standard printed on the labelling. If the date or time of issue of the standard is post 1990, 7MLRC will treat the demolition waste as being asbestos free meaning it can be disposed of like other non-hazardous waste but you must show proof to the scale office attendant so it can be verified. If your waste predates 1990, getting a qualified technician to sample the waste and having it lab tested can also rule out the presence of asbestos. Many builders new of the risks associated with asbestos prior to the ban and did not use it.

When can I Bring in my Dry Wall Waste?

Large asbestos loads that exceed 5 bags require an appointment to be set up for disposal of the waste and can only be scheduled Monday to Friday. Loads consisting of 5 bags or less can be brought in Monday to Saturday. To set up an appointment, call the landfill at 250 949-1681

For more information, go to www.rdmw.bc.ca/regional-services/solid-waste/, and download “RDMW Drywall Disposal Program and Information Sheet”