

# MISSION *Green*

A Newsletter from the City of Markham • Issue 13 • Fall/Winter 2020

**Styrofoam Packaging no longer accepted in curbside collection. Effective October 19, 2020**

## Markham is Breaking Free from Single-Use Plastics

Single-Use Plastics are plastic items that are typically used only once before being thrown out. The most common are:

- Beverage/party cups and lids
- Coffee/hot beverage lid stoppers
- Straws and stir sticks
- Cutlery
- Styrofoam packaging and take-out food containers
- Grocery/produce bags

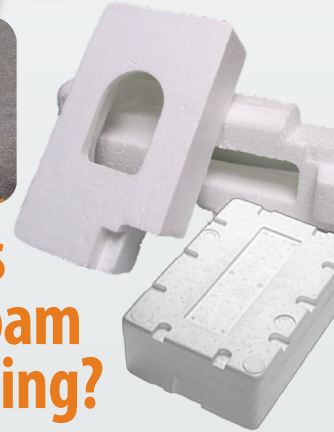
Single-Use Plastics are particularly problematic from an environmental sustainability perspective because they have limited reuse, recyclability or compost options. Additionally, many of

them end up as litter on our roads, parks, trails and creeks.

Markham's Single-Use Plastic Strategy is being implemented in Phases. Phase 1 will:

1. Raise awareness on how to reduce use of Single-Use Plastics
2. Eliminate Single-Use Plastics at City Facilities
3. Increase recycling of Styrofoam packaging

Since 2002, the City of Markham has been accepting clean, loose Styrofoam cushion and food-grade packaging at our four recycling depots, giving residents the opportunity to keep this material out of landfill and ensure it's properly recycled into new products. Starting October 19, 2020, Styrofoam packaging will no longer be accepted in curbside collection. Continue to drop off your clean Styrofoam packaging at any Markham Recycling Depot.



### What is Styrofoam Packaging?

**Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam is a lightweight, plastic material commonly known as Styrofoam.**

Styrofoam packaging is the plastic material used to protect a variety of items such as appliances, household electronics, and furniture. Online retailers also use this type of material to protect items delivered to your home.



**Celebrate Waste Reduction Week 2020**  
**Learn How to Reduce Your Single Use Plastics & More**  
[markham.ca/StyrofoamRecycling](http://markham.ca/StyrofoamRecycling)

## Take Styrofoam Packaging to the Depot!

In 2013, Markham banned electronic materials (e.g. TVs, computers) from curbside collection. The eWaste ban resulted in increased electronic waste diversion.

In 2017, Markham banned household textiles from curbside garbage collection. As a result, 7 million pounds (3175 metric tonnes) of textiles were diverted from landfill.

In 2020, the ban on Styrofoam packaging will help keep it out of landfill, streets and our waterways. By accepting Styrofoam packaging at no charge at all recycling depots, we are ensuring it is properly recycled and transformed into new products.

**ALL** clean food grade Styrofoam continues to be accepted at the depots. If you cannot drop off these items, they must be placed into your clear bag garbage. Do **NOT** put in your blue box.



# How Markham Recycles Styrofoam Packaging



**1 Depot Drop Off** • Before taking your Styrofoam packaging to the recycling depot, please remove labels, tape and any cardboard that may be attached. Remember, this packing foam is sturdy and rigid to protect things like household appliances and electronics.



## Drop Off Your Styrofoam at Our Recycling Depots!

- **Markham Village** - 6041 Highway 7 East
- **Milliken Mills** - 7660 Kennedy Road
- **Thornhill** - 5 Green Lane
- **Unionville** - 137A Main Street

Visit [markham.ca/recycling](http://markham.ca/recycling) for hours of operation.

## Other Styrofoam Accepted at the Depots



We accept **clean** material only!  
Remove food, liquids and rinse clean.

## These Items Are NOT Styrofoam Packaging & Should be Placed in Your Clear Bag Garbage for Curbside Collection



Packing Peanuts

Hot Tub Cover



Foam Wrap



Pool Noodles



Rubber Foam

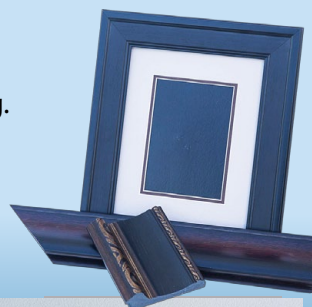
**2 Densifier** • The collected Styrofoam packaging is put through a densification system that compresses the material to remove the air and reduce the volume to create compact bricks. These bricks are more cost-efficient to transport, as less trucks are required due to its densified and stackable form.



**3 Pelletizing** • Styrofoam recycling companies take the densified foam bricks and turn them into a plastic resin that look like small pellets.



**4 End Products** • The pellets are then used to make a variety of products including picture frames, benches and crown moulding.



# Be a Better Recycler

## Keep These Items Out of Your Blue Box!

They are not recyclable in Markham's blue box program.



### These Items go in the Green Bin:

- Take-out paper coffee cups (no lid)
- Paper towel & tissue paper
- Soiled paper plates & pizza boxes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Plastic or compostable bagged pet waste

**DON'T Put These Items in the Blue Box!**

### These Items go in the Clear Bag Garbage:

- Single-use furnace filters
- Plastic cutlery & straws
- Coffee cup lids
- Resealable sandwich bags (Ziploc)
- Six-pack beverage rings

### Prevent Blowing Litter

- ✓ Switch to a larger blue box. Markham no longer offers smaller blue boxes for sale.
- ✓ Keep material below the rim. Don't overload your blue box.

### Eliminate Blue Box Contamination

**NEVER** bag recyclables – they must be kept loose for curbside pick-up, processing and resale. Plastic bags full of recyclables that arrive at the sorting facility can not be opened, which means the entire bag is considered garbage.

### Clothes Hangers?

Bag wire and plastic hangers and drop them off in any Markham textile recycling bin.

### Plastic Shopping Bags?

Drop off at any Markham Recycling Depot.



## What to do with Household Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any product that is poisonous, corrosive, flammable, or explosive. For safe handling and proper recycling, drop these items off at the HHW Depot on Rodick Road.



**These items should be taken to the HHW Depot if the container is full or partially full. ONLY EMPTY cans or bottles can be placed in your blue box:**

- Aerosol cans (full or partially full)
- Paints, solvents & thinners (full or partially full)
- Automotive fluids (e.g. brake fluid)
- Household cleaners (e.g. oven, floors)

**These items should ALWAYS be taken to the HHW Depot:**

- Batteries (dry cell & rechargeable)
- Pool chemicals
- Pesticides, insecticides & herbicides
- Rodent & insect poisons
- Curly light bulbs

# Single-Use Masks, Gloves & Wipes Must be Placed in the Garbage

## Never Place Them in the Blue Box

Improper disposal of these items present a direct health and safety risk to curbside collectors and material processing staff, who must remove these items by hand. Discarded masks, gloves and wipes are harmful to the environment – never throw on the street, in a parking lot or down the toilet.

**Do your part. Stop the spread of COVID-19.**



## Illegal Dumping

All residents are responsible for properly disposing of their waste. Deliberately dumping garbage in parks, private property or along the roadside is illegal!

Illegal dumping is a significant source of environmental pollution, and harmful to the health and safety of the community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

✓ Please place your garbage in clear bags to be collected curbside.

✓ For hazardous waste, please take these items to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot located at 455 Rodick Road.



**Illegal dumping can lead to fines up to \$2,000**



**Keep our parks clean by picking up your pet waste and disposing of it in your green bin at home!**

## F.O.G. Clogs – Protect Your Pipes!



Photo courtesy Clean Water Services, Oregon

With more of us cooking at home, we want to remind you to protect your homes and condos from sewer backups caused by F.O.G. (Fats, Oil & Grease). When poured down the sink or toilet, F.O.G. solidifies causing clogged pipes. This prevents wastewater from leaving your home.

Clogged sewer pipes can cause sewage to back up and flood your basement and even condo units!

### Use Your Green Bin for F.O.G. Disposal!



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