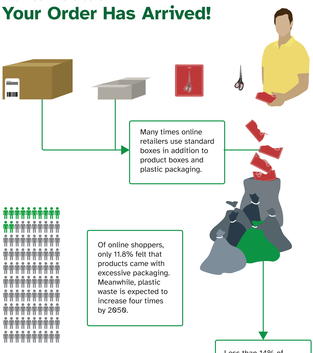
The Trash We Create

Your Order Has Arrived!



Many times online retailers use standard boxes in addition to product boxes and plastic packaging.

Of online shoppers, only 11.8% felt that products came with excessive packaging. Meanwhile, plastic waste is expected to increase four times by 2059.

Less than 14% of plastic packaging is recycled. Not all plastic or paper packaging is recyclable and contaminated recycling is sent to landfills.

Why Isn't My Recycling Accepted?

Food and Organic Waste

Food scraps like apple cores, eggshells or expired leftovers belong in your Green Bin. When you mistakenly toss food scraps in your Blue Bin, food residue and particles get soaked up by paper and can ruin large batches of otherwise good recyclables.

Containers with Leftovers

Please empty and rinse food containers before tossing them in your Blue Bin. When you don't, the residue from items like jars and take-out containers gets soaked up by paper and can ruin large batches of otherwise good recyclables.

Clothing and Textiles

Old clothes, shoes, blankets, and curtains don't belong in the Blue Bin. Instead, donate items that are in good condition to not-for-profit agencies or drop them off for reuse at Community Environment Days.

Hot Beverage Cups

Most disposable hot beverage cups are made of paper, but lined with plastic, which makes them difficult to sort mechanically at the recycling facility. The low-quality paper also does not pulp easily and causes clogging in the pulping process which, as well as the dyes, affect the paper quality.

Black Plastic

Black plastic of any kind, such as take-out containers and black garbage bags, is not accepted in the City's recycling program. There is no stable market for the volume of black plastic generated in Toronto and black plastic cannot be sorted mechanically at the recycling facility because the optical sorting technology cannot recognize it.

Chains, Hoses, and Cords

These do not go in your Blue Bin. They can get tangled in sorting machines, damage equipment and cause workplace injuries at the recycling facility. Donate unwanted VHS tapes or see if your local electronics store's has a recycling program. Throw unwanted cords, hoses and cables in your garbage.

Canada only exports 12% of their waste and often cannot manage most their waste domestically.

With the 2018 'Operation National Sword' policy, plastic imports to China dropped by 99% despite them historically importing much of North American plastic waste.

What Can I Do?

Buy In Bulk

When using online stores, you can build your cart or wishlist and buy in bulk instead. Often times this reduces packaging as the producer sends less packaging and places items together. This option is especially useful when buying online groceries where users can make shopping lists before making their purchases. This also lowers gas emissions from delivery vehicles.

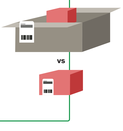
Curbside Pickup

Curbside pickup is a good alternative that still allows the shopper to purchase online without having contact with employees. These pickups have guidelines such as contact free drop off, that ensure the safety of the user and avoid product packaging as well as shipping materials since many objects are found in store and placed for pickup.

Frustration Free Packaging

When shopping online, you can check the store online policies for their environmental initiatives before choosing to make purchases. Amazon has an initiative called frustration free packaging which allows items to be delivered with less packaging. In order to see items with frustration free packaging, the phrase 'frustration free packaging' must be entered before the item name when searching.

*this feature is more widely available on Amazon US.



I Want To Do More!

Reuse Old Boxes

The boxes from online orders can be used for storing items within the household or for potential returns. Many online shoppers return their items and rather than purchasing new packaging to mail these shipments, the previous boxes can be kept around in case of returns.

Send Recyclables In

TerraCycle is an international company that aims to reduce global waste production and help guarantee your items are properly recycled. Using their recycling programs, can be sent in or picked up to be recycled by them. These recycling programs also allow you to earn rewards and donated to various charities.

Try Loop

Loop is a company within TerraCycle that helps create a waste free online shopping experience. With loop, items can be purchased and delivered in a reusable tote and the bag as well as item containers can later be collected, where they will be taken and recycled as well.

Once you learn the guidelines of recycling, there is one less piece of waste to worry about.

Want To Learn More?

Shop on the Loop Website

Recycle with TerraCycle

Toronto Recycling Guidelines