

# 3 Reminders About Office Waste Management

Did you know that Canadians generate 31 million tonnes of garbage per year and only 30% of it is recycled? During Waste Reduction Week in October, we found that there were several misconceptions about waste management at office buildings.

Here are some key reminders:

1

## Office vs. Home Programs

Office waste management programs **are not** the same as home waste management systems because different systems and companies are used to process waste at commercial buildings.

For example, you can throw paper towel or wooden stir sticks in your home compost, but those same items cannot go into your office organic bin.

Tip: Find out from your property manager what you can and cannot dispose of at your building.

2

## Rinse Before You Recycle

Rinsing your recyclables may seem like a hassle – especially if you are in a rush. But if a plastic container is dirty, it can contaminate the entire bin of recyclables forcing waste haulers to send the bin to the landfill.

Tip: Make sure you give your container a quick rinse to remove excess food.

3

## Not All Plastics Can Be Recycled

As a general rule, most clear and light plastics (labelled #1 or #2) can be recycled if clean. The higher the number (#3+) on a piece of plastic, the more difficult it is to recycle. All plastic cutlery, mini creamers, dark, coloured or black plastics should go into the garbage.

Tip: Try eliminating single-use plastics as much as possible from every day use.

What about coffee pods? If the package is not biodegradable/compostable then they typically should go into the garbage. Some suppliers and office supply delivery companies will take certain coffee pods back. Be sure to ask.

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