

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Bylaw 720 Updated Fees and Changes



What is Bylaw 720?

Bylaw 720 refers to the “Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulations Bylaw 720, 2022”. This bylaw (previously named “Solid Waste Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 170, 2019”) is intended to establish the updated [tipping fee and charges](#), as well as outline the disposal regulation at the CSWM waste management facilities, which includes details for the conditions of use, violation, and penalties involved.

Find more information and details: [Bylaw 720](#).

The minimum charge for garbage (municipal solid waste) is currently \$10. Will that go up?

No, the minimum charge for up to 100kgs of garbage will remain the same at \$10, and will be pro-rated at \$145/tonne thereafter. The only exception would be lawn clippings and raked leaves, which are now a minimum charge of \$10.

Why are these changes being implemented?

The majority of loads arriving at the landfill contain a considerable amount of recyclables, which are free to dispose of. In order to provide a financial incentive to residents and businesses who recycle, the CSWM service will now charge a higher rate for loads of construction and demolition material that contain 10% or more recyclables. This rate is in line with the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) mixed with recyclables rate.

Fee changes are required as a result of inflation, increased production costs, and proper waste management disposal. These fees also help fund Comox Strathcona Waste Management operations and a variety of education programs designed to promote diversion through the CSWM service area.

Can you explain the ‘Conditions of Use, Violations and Penalties’ portion of the bylaw changes?

The Conditions of Use were updated to use more general terminology for easier understanding, with one addition to address aggressive and offensive behaviour towards CSWM staff. This type of behaviour has been on the rise since the beginning of the pandemic and has negatively impacted staff as a result. There was no mechanism within the prior bylaw to address this type of behaviour, which is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This update is required to protect the safety and wellbeing of staff.

The violations and penalties section were updated to provide clarity and add enforcement tools for the CSWM service:

- To recover the full costs associated with proper disposal, special handling, and/or cleanup/abatement resulting from any waste received in contravention of the Bylaw;
- Impose fines for contravention of the Bylaw within the authorities of new Comox Valley Regional District to Bylaw Enforcement Notice Bylaw No. 687; and
- the ability to temporarily or permanently prohibit any person who contravenes provisions of the Bylaw, specifically geared towards offensive behaviour, continued contraventions and repeat contamination infractions.

When do the adjusted charges and enforcement actions become official?

The updated fees and enforcement actions will be effective on **January 1st, 2023**.

What can I do to reduce my solid waste disposal?

There are many different ways to reduce your imprint at a waste management facility:

- [Recycle](#) – instead of sending everything to the landfill, consider separating your recycle and disposing of it properly at a recycling depot.
- [Organics composting](#) helps reduce the amount of waste at landfills. By using an organics compost container, you're reducing greenhouse gas emissions known as methane and allowing food waste to properly break down as compost.

Why are you charging for lawn clippings and raked leaves?

We are now charging for lawn clippings and raked leaves as processing and disposal costs are increasing. If you are concerned about paying for grass clippings and raked leaves at the waste management centre, consider setting your lawn mower to mulch mode and leaving the material on your lawn. Mulched grass is much better for your lawn's overall health and can reduce the need to water your lawn, saving an additional cost if you're paying water meter charges.

Why are mattresses and box springs \$20 each versus per set?

The \$20 fee covers the true cost to handle, dismantle, and recycle a mattress or box spring. Mattresses and box springs do not compact in the landfill and can cause significant damage to equipment because of their coil/spring design. Mattresses are shredded, the metal is recovered/recycled, and the remaining material is used as beneficial landfill cover material.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is currently working with industry to create a product stewardship program to handle this hard-to-recycle material, with the intention of increasing the number of materials being diverted from landfill.

Why did the rate for clean wood waste decrease?

Wood waste that has not been painted, stained, or treated (with or without nails) can be diverted from the landfill and is utilized as hog fuel, a biomass fuel source for boilers. When clean wood waste is diverted, it increases landfill life and will not produce harmful greenhouse gases when it decomposes.

Examples of clean wood waste include:

- OSB/plywood
- Pallets and/or raw dimensional lumber
- Fiber particle board (free of lamination)

Are all fridges free to dispose of?

No. Most residential refrigerators are free, as they are covered under the product stewardship program “[Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable \(MARR\)](#)”. However, items not covered under this program will be charged under the ‘Refrigerant Containing Units not covered by Stewardship Materials’ category.

The following items are not covered under this program include:

- RV fridge
- Any industrial, store or commercial fridge
- Merchandise freezer or fridge
- Mini splits/central air/heat pumps
- Built-in dehumidifiers (usually attached to a building HVAC system)