

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
BOARD POLICY**

POLICY: Rural Curbside Garbage and Recycling Collection Service Exemption

AUTHORITY: Board Resolution No. B440/02 dated August 15, 2002.

AMENDED: Board Resolution dated February 25, 2016.

POLICY STATEMENT

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Solid Waste Collection and Drop-Off Service Regulation Bylaw states "every owner of a residential premises in the service region to whom the Board does not grant an exclusion or exemption (a) must use the Solid Waste Collection and Drop-Off Service established by Bylaw No. 2190, 2003; and (b) pay the rates and fees set out in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Fees and Charges Bylaw."

Several common themes have emerged as to why a resident does not wish to receive or pay for solid waste collection service. Reasons that are not considered adequate for exemption from the mandatory solid waste collection service are listed below.

PURPOSE

To allow the Board of Directors to be consistent with requests for exemption from the Solid Waste Collection and Drop-Off Service.

DEFINITIONS

Residential premise shall be characterized as any "dwelling unit" as defined in Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Zoning bylaws.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Public Works Manager shall review all requests for exemptions using this policy and respond to those requests in a timely manner. Where the Public Works Manager believes this policy is not clear enough to apply to an exemption request, the Public Works Manager may bring the exemption request to the Board of Directors for consideration.

PROCEDURES

Reasons for Which the Regional Board Will Not Grant a Waiver of Service:

1. Household generates little or no garbage.

It is possible to reduce waste through smart shopping, composting, and recycling. However there is always something to throw out that cannot be reused, such as toothpaste tubes, broken dishware, and other garbage. This service is similar to others such as sewer, library, and water that have fixed operating costs all year round. Most of the collection service costs are incurred by driving the garbage collection route, not by stopping at a specific house to pick up a varying number of garbage containers. Social, legal, and environmental benefits of the service such as tidier streets, less traffic, increased responsibility in the management of household garbage, and achievement of waste reduction goals outweigh concerns about variations in the level of use.

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2. Residents are away from home for extended periods of time because of job requirements, vacation, alternate winter residence.

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3. Property is a recreational home and is only occupied during the summer.

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4. Resident prefers to pay private hauler and have a more flexible service.

Since the Regional District contractor will be driving past this home anyway, there is no need to increase truck traffic in a residential neighbourhood. The costs of the collection program can only be minimized and stabilized if everyone contributes. Having separate collection trucks for each home, instead of a community collection program, significantly raises the cost of service for all home owners.

5. Property is not easily accessible and owner does not want to bring garbage to a common area for collection.

Property owners must accept the consequences of choosing a particular location for their home and are solely responsible for making their property accessible. It reduces vehicle traffic and air pollution if residents drive their garbage to a public roadway instead of the entire distance to the landfill.

6. Resident prefers to go to the landfill directly

Taking garbage directly to a Landfill is allowable, but a tipping fee is paid at the site. This provides a monetary incentive to reduce garbage but does not meet other objectives of the garbage collection program, such as reducing vehicle traffic associated with garbage disposal and promoting accessible recycling services for all residents. As well there is no way of verifying that household garbage and recyclable materials is actually going to the landfill and not being disposed of illegally at a different location.

7. Resident prefers to take garbage to the dumpster at work.

Taking garbage to a commercial bin is unacceptable for many reasons. There is no direct cost incentive to reduce waste going into a commercial bin, unless you happen to be the owner or renter of that bin. Many business owners and hauling companies have resorted to locking up their bins in order to avoid paying for extra garbage placed there by residents who are not using the traditional residential garbage collection programs. Since the Regional District cannot possibly enforce or verify the legitimacy of residential waste in commercial bins, this means of garbage disposal cannot be

considered as a reason for exemption.

8. Resident is on a fixed or low income.

Solid waste collection service is not different from any other mandatory municipal, regional and provincial services. Regardless of income, waste is still being generated and must get to a local landfill. In many cases, the new service is significantly cheaper than previous options, such as a private hauling service or direct trips to the landfill.

9. Resident has a physical inability to get garbage to the curb.

In most cases, the garbage leaves the house by the same manner in which it got inside - through the help of neighbours, friends, or relatives. Higher levels of service and special consideration may be available for extreme cases.

10. Resident is burning or burying waste on property.

Burning or burying waste on private property is not an acceptable long-term solution for managing waste. Smoke from open burning has become a significant environmental problem in British Columbia, threatening health and reducing visibility. Under the Environmental Management Act, domestic waste and plastics are a prohibited material for burning, even if a permit from the Ministry of Forests or the applicable Fire Department has been granted. Burying waste requires special approval from the Ministry of Environment.

Reasons for Which the Regional Board May Allow the Public Works Manager to Grant a Waiver of Service:

1. The building being charged for service is no longer a dwelling unit or on the property

Buildings or other improvements that do not meet the definition of a dwelling unit may be removed from service. This may occur due to demolition of the building, loss from fire, the building being condemned or removal of a mobile home.

2. Adequate commercial bin service on the property in question

Some mobile home parks and properties with businesses have found it preferable to have commercial garbage and recycling bins located on their property for use by residents rather than allow house by house collection. These properties may be removed from service so long as a licensed commercial waste hauler is providing adequate and consistent garbage and recycling service to the residents on the property and the commercial bins are located on the property in question.

3. The property cannot be accessed via a maintained road

Where homes are located in an area where the Public Works Manager determines that service cannot be provided due to lack of a safe road for collection vehicles, the home may be removed from service.