

MARCH 2019

Question #9 – Ziploc bags

Dear Trash Talking Trish & Tabitha:

I have read in the waste & recycling guide that Ziploc bags are not recyclable. Can the bag be recycled if I cut off the zip lock part?

Also, is it possible to visit the recycling location where our blue and black boxes go to be recycled? I would like to get a better understanding of what happens to the recycled items and the process once it leaves my yard.

I really appreciate your assistance and time.

N.S, Unknown location

Dear N.S:

So good to hear from you! And better yet, so good to hear that you read the 2019-2020 Waste & Recycling Guide! We think that it should be on everyone's coffee table!

Ahhh, where do we even start when talking Ziploc bags? As convenient as they are, they do come with some drawbacks when it comes to recycling! The freezer-style bags have an oxygen proof layer inside to prevent freezer burn that the end markets do not want and they also do not want the zippers. So, we have to say no to Ziploc and freezer bags. We know that most people will not cut off the zippers or differentiate between freezer and other bags so it's just easier to promote NO to recycling them to avoid contamination and being dinged.

I can tell you that Haldimand County's recycling that is collected by Modern on a weekly basis goes straight from the curb to our waste transfer station in Canborough (CWMF). Once there, it is tipped onto the tip floor into 2 different piles: the containers area (blue box) or the fibres area (black box). When there is enough material, it will be loaded into a compactor and placed into a 53 foot trailer and then hauled down to the Niagara Material Recycling Facility (or MRF; we love acronyms in the waste world).

Once at the Niagara MRF it is tipped onto the floor – and this is what you have requested to see – a lot of 'magic' happens. Instead of driving there, check out Niagara Region's video about the Niagara Region Recycling Centre. Just head on over to YouTube, search Niagara Region Recycling Centre – Niagara Region and watch their 6 ½ minute video. Promise me this though: when they say grey box in the video: think black box, when you see Emterra delivering from their curbs: think Geo Barnes & Sons delivering a transfer trailer from our transfer station. Remember, we sell our recyclables to Niagara so our program is similar to Niagara Region with a few difference (including the box colours and delivery trailers).

We hope this helps, N.S, and thanks again for the question! Please download the Recycle Coach App for recycling and garbage information (like schedule disruptions, special drop off days, etc). And for others, if you have any burning trash questions, please feel free to send them to our NEW email address:

waste@haldimandcounty.on.ca!