

Let's roll! New black, blue and green cart collection starts **March 2026**

Waste Collection Information Kit

for Designated Downtown Areas



Look inside to learn more about cart-based collection



Table of contents

Introduction

Welcome 3
Key benefits of the program 4
Cart and truck features..... 4

Getting started

Service start date 5
Your new collection schedule 5
Dimensions 6
Black garbage cart 7
Green organics cart 7
Blue recycling cart 8
Storage tips 8

Set out – what you need to know

How to set out your waste 9
Timing 9
Safety tips 9

Cart maintenance

Cleaning tips 10
Repairs or replacements 10

Have extra waste?

Drop-off sites 10

Need help?

Contact us 11



Introduction

Welcome

Cart-based collection is coming to properties in the designated downtown areas. Starting March 2026, you will separate your waste into garbage, organics or recycling, and use carts instead of bags.

Service Assigned to the Property

Waste carts are assigned to the property, not individual units. Tenants must contact their property owner or property manager regarding their waste collection needs, cart access and sorting expectations. Property owners and property managers are responsible for the oversight and proper use of waste collection services at their property(ies).

Eligibility

These services are provided solely for eligible properties in the designated downtown area.

Tip: Sorting your waste will help keep valuable resources out of the landfill. Keep recycling empty, clean and dry. To help you sort properly into the garbage, organics or recycling, visit regionofwaterloo.ca/waste for resources.



Reminder: Do not use your carts until **March 2026**.

Key benefits of the program



Promotes cleanliness: Carts securely contain waste, helping to prevent litter and deter pests.



Enhances efficiency: Smoother and easier collection allows for more reliable and timely service.



Supports workforce stability: Modern equipment and improved working conditions help attract and retain collection staff.



Improves worker safety: Reduces the risk of injury by minimizing manual lifting and handling.

Cart and truck features

Address label

- Write the property address on the carts to ensure they stay with the property

QR + ID code

- Scan this code for cart maintenance and to learn more about waste collection programs and services at regionofwaterloo.ca/carts
- Assigns carts to your property



Green cart lock

- Works to deter pests from getting at food waste
- Keeps the cart locked until the cart is flipped upside down by the truck



Mechanical truck arm

- 'Hugs' the cart to lift and empty into the truck

360-degree cameras

- Allows driver to observe the collection process
- Improves visibility outside of the truck



Reminder: When possible, place carts 2 feet (0.6m) away from any other object for collection



Getting started

Service start date

Cart-based collection starts the first week of **March 2026**

Your new collection schedule

Your collection day information will be available in **February 2026**.
For more information visit regionofwaterloo.ca/waste.

Dimensions



Extra-large black garbage cart

Measurements: 85 cm (D) x 74 cm (W) x 111 cm (H)
Volume: 360 litres

Large black garbage cart

Measurements: 69 cm (D) x 68 cm (W) x 111 cm (H)
Volume: 240 litres

Small black garbage cart

Measurements: 62 cm (D) x 48 cm (W) x 96 cm (H)
Volume: 120 litres



Green organics cart

Measurements: 62 cm (D) x 48 cm (W) x 98 cm (H)
Volume: 100 litres



Extra-large blue recycling cart

Measurements: 85 cm (D) x 74 cm (W) x 111 cm (H)
Volume: 360 litres

Small blue recycling cart

Measurements: 62 cm (D) x 48 cm (W) x 96 cm (H)
Volume: 120 litres

Black garbage cart

- Bags are not required
- Do not overfill your carts – the lid must be closed
- Hazardous waste materials, electronics, batteries, and tires are not collected – Visit regionofwaterloo.ca/waste or the Waste Whiz app for more information
- Bulky items are not a part of downtown waste collection service
- The weight of the extra-large cart cannot exceed 300 pounds (135 kilograms), the large cart cannot exceed 200 pounds (90 kilograms), and the small cart cannot exceed 100 pounds (45 kilograms)

Tip: Save space in your garbage cart by putting organic waste in the green cart.



Green organics cart

The green organics cart is a new addition to the downtown area. By using the green cart, your food scraps and other organics can be transformed into nutrient-rich compost instead of ending up in the landfill.

- Turn the handle to lock and unlock your cart
- Keep your green cart locked unless adding material - the lid unlocks when flipped by the truck
- Liner bags are not required, with the exception of pet waste which must be wrapped in paper or certified compostable bags
- No liquids or oil
- The weight of the cart cannot exceed 85 pounds (38 kilograms)



Liner options

- Certified compostable bags only
- Paper bags or newspaper



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Blue recycling cart

- Recyclables can be mixed (paper and containers) in the same cart
- Remove plastic from cardboard boxes
- Flatten and tie cardboard into bundles and place beside the blue cart for collection. Maximum size 75 x 75 x 20 cm (30 x 30 x 8 inches)
- The weight of the extra-large cart cannot exceed 300 pounds (135 kilograms) and the small cart cannot exceed 100 pounds (45 kilograms)
- Do not use a cardboard box to hold other recycling



Reminder: Residential units in the downtown area will continue to use blue boxes provided by Circular Materials. Visit circularmaterials.ca/waterlooregion for more information

Storage tips

- Carts can be stored wherever you currently store your waste
- Carts cannot be stored on a road, road allowance, or boulevard
- Please ensure carts do not obstruct pedestrian walkways
- Contact the property owner for assistance with storage and ensure you're following your local by-law

Set out - what you need to know

How to set out your waste

- **Park it** – place your carts at the collection location
- **Point it** – arrows point to the road, the handle faces your property
- **Space it** – when possible give at least an arm's length or 2 feet (0.6m) of clearance on all sides so the truck can collect safely



Reminder: Please ensure carts do not obstruct pedestrian sidewalks and bike lanes

Winter set out

- **Clear a path** to roll your carts to the collection location
- **To make movement easier, pull your cart** behind you like a sled instead of pushing like a plow in front of you
- **Place at ground level** – not on top of or behind snowbanks or on the road

Timing

- Set waste out by 6 a.m.



**Out by
6 a.m.**

Safety tips

- Close lids before moving carts
- Only place acceptable materials into the carts
- Do not sit, stand or climb in/on carts
- Do not exceed weight limits
- Do not place carts on the road, an elevated surface, or on a slope

Cart maintenance

Cleaning tips

- Rinse regularly with water, use liner bags, and/or add baking soda to the bottom to minimize odours
- Place items like paper egg cartons and pizza boxes at the bottom of your green cart to reduce material getting stuck
- If items get stuck in the bottom of your carts, use a broom or shovel to loosen them
- Visit regionofwaterloo.ca/waste for more tips

Repairs or replacements

- The carts are under warranty and will be repaired or replaced if damaged from regular use
- Your carts will no longer be under warranty if you modify it in any permanent way
- Scan the QR code on your cart, fill out an inquiry form at regionofwaterloo.ca/waste or call us at **519-575-4400**

Have extra waste?

Drop-off sites

- Waterloo Waste Management site:
925 Erb Street West, Gate 2, Waterloo
- Cambridge Waste Management site:
201 Savage Drive, Cambridge
- Visit regionofwaterloo.ca/waste for hours, applicable fees, acceptable items and for more details on our programs and services
- If you require a different level of service, contact a private waste collection provider

Need help?

Contact us

- Call us at **519-575-4400**
- Email us at **carts@regionofwaterloo.ca**
- Visit **regionofwaterloo.ca/waste** for more information

Translate

Visit **regionofwaterloo.ca/carts** to translate this information.



Thank you for participating!

Thank you for using your new carts and properly sorting your waste to keep valuable materials out of the landfill. When we all do our part, it adds up to a big impact—for our community and for a more sustainable future as we grow with care.

Information subject to change without notice.



regionofwaterloo.ca/waste

V1 – Winter 2026

