



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

NEWS RELEASE

03 FEBRUARY 2012

Durham Region reminds residents to be safe with their waste

WHITBY, ON – The Regional Municipality of Durham, Works Department would like to remind residents to keep the health and safety of waste collection operators in mind when they dispose of their waste.

“Waste collection operators sometimes find their health and safety compromised due to sharp objects found in garbage bags or reusable containers,” says Mirka Januszkiewicz, Director of Waste Management. “A waste collection operator could be severely injured when picking up an unmarked garbage bag containing large pieces of broken glass. Residents are asked to ensure that their waste does not pose a hazard to anyone.”

For the protection of the operators, all waste set out for collection must be in compliance with the Region’s Waste Management By-law. When setting out broken glass, please adhere to the following practice:

1. Separate broken glass from other waste.
2. Seal broken glass inside a securely taped cardboard box.
3. Mark the box as “GLASS” with a black marker, in large letters.

“Sharps” items—objects that can lacerate the skin and come in contact with bodily fluids, such as a hypodermic needle, syringe, epipen or lancet—can also pose a serious hazard to waste collection operators. These items should be placed in puncture-resistant, non-breakable plastic/metal containers with a tight fitting lid (e.g. a bleach container). The container should then be labelled “Sharps” with a black marker, in large letters, to alert staff, and taken to a Regional Waste Management Facility for disposal. **These items should never be disposed of in the garbage or recycling.**

Please note: Garbage collection for Oshawa and Whitby residents is the responsibility of the individual municipalities, rather than the Region of Durham. These residents are asked to check their waste calendars, or contact their local municipality, regarding the proper disposal of broken glass and “sharps.”

For more information on the proper disposal of waste, the Region’s Waste Management By-law, or for the locations of Durham Region’s Waste Management Facilities, please visit www.durhamregionwaste.ca, email waste@durham.ca, or call 905-579-5264 (toll-free at 1-800-667-5671).

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