

Question & Answers

Toronto's Municipal Code Chapter 846 for Transfer Stations

RE: Prohibited Wastes

1. Why did Michigan introduce new waste management legislation?

Michigan has experienced increasing waste imports from Canada and other U.S. States. For example, following the closure of Toronto's Keele Valley Landfill at the end of 2002, Toronto became reliant on the export of all of its residual waste to Michigan. This has created a negative public reaction that has sparked protective action on Michigan's part.

2. What specifically affects Toronto?

Michigan has required all exporters of waste into Michigan to demonstrate an "equivalency" in regulations governing the landfilling of 12 materials that are prohibited from landfills in Michigan. Only those exporters that can demonstrate an equivalency are permitted to export waste to Michigan. Toronto's request for "Certification of Equivalent Landfill Disposal Prohibitions" has been granted by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality.

The 12 prohibited materials are:

- Used deposit beverage containers
- Whole motor vehicle tires
- Used oil
- Lead acid batteries
- Yard clippings
- Medical waste
- Low-level radioactive waste
- Hazardous waste
- Liquid waste
- Sewage
- PCBs
- Asbestos

3. How has Toronto responded?

Toronto responded to Michigan by:

- (i) identifying Provincial regulations governing the disposal of the 12 prohibited materials listed above;
- (ii) banning the collection of tires; and
- (iii) ensuring the Toronto Municipal Code prohibits the receipt of the 12 waste materials banned from Michigan landfills and introduces fines for illegal tipping.

See the following Chapters of the Toronto Municipal Code

Waste collection commercial properties Chapter 841:

http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_841.pdf

Waste collection residential properties Chapter 844:

http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_844.pdf

4. Why did Toronto respond in this manner?

To maintain and protect its access to the Carleton Farms Landfill in Michigan, Toronto needed to be “certified” by Michigan. Without certification, the City’s ability to maintain disposal service would have been compromised. As a “certified” exporting jurisdiction, Toronto can export to Michigan municipal waste and waste accepted from the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (“IC&I”) sector (i.e. commercial waste).

5. When will did the bans com into effect?

The new By-law came into effect on October 1, 2004 and enforcement began immediately.

6. How will this affect my ability to access and use the City of Toronto’s services at transfer stations?

Toronto has prohibited the same twelve waste materials from disposal that are prohibited from disposal in Michigan landfills. Toronto will continue to receive materials for recycling at its transfer stations, including tires, and maintain its Household Hazardous Waste depots.

Residents can bring up to 100 kg of used tires to the Ingram, Bermondsey and Commissioners Transfer Stations for recycling. Loads greater than 100 kg are accepted at the Dufferin Transfer Station.

Residential loads of tires up to 100 kg are accepted free of charge. Commercial loads and residential loads greater than 100 kg are subject to a tipping fee.

Tires accepted include Rubber tires, excluding heavy truck, forklift and large off-road tiers. Rims must be removed.

7. What can I do to help?

You can help Toronto by ensuring you are in compliance with the Toronto Municipal Code.

8. Who do I contact if I have additional questions or need more information?

Please contact:

For Agency, Board, Commission & Department clients and Schools, contact Allan Mazur at amazur@toronto.ca

For Charities and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional clients, contact Nadine Kerr at nkerr@toronto.ca

The general public should contact the Weighscale Function at wscale@toronto.ca

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF PROHIBITED WASTE

The following items shall be deemed to be prohibited waste for the purposes of this Chapter (http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_844.pdf):

- A. Acute hazardous waste chemical;
- B. Hazardous waste chemical;
- C. Corrosive waste;
- D. Hazardous industrial waste;
- E. Ignitable waste;
- F. PCB waste;
- G. Radioactive waste;
- H. Reactive waste;
- I. Severely toxic waste;
- J. Leachate toxic waste;
- K. Pathological waste, including biomedical waste, whether solid or liquid, including but not limited to any animal or human organ or part thereof; bone, muscle or other animal or human tissue or part thereof; used bandages, poultices, dressings, medicines, vitamins, drugs, vaccines, needles, syringes, vials or any other similar material or substance which contains or may contain pathogenic micro-organisms or which may be hazardous or dangerous and anything designated as pathological waste by Regulation 347;
- L. Any household product, material or item labelled as “corrosive,” “toxic,” “reactive,” “explosive,” “oxidizing,” “poisonous infectious” or “flammable,” including but not limited to the following:
 - (1) Pool or photographic chemicals;
 - (2) Laundry bleach;
 - (3) Drain, oven, toilet and carpet cleaning solutions;
 - (4) Paint thinner and paint remover;
 - (5) Rat and mouse poison;
 - (6) Flea collars and powders;
 - (7) Insect killers;
 - (8) Moth balls;
 - (9) Weed killers;
 - (10) Fungicides;
 - (11) Wood preservatives;
 - (12) Oil-based and latex paints;
 - (13) Engine oil;
 - (14) Brake and transmission fluid;
 - (15) Antifreeze;
 - (16) Automotive batteries;
 - (17) Ni-cad rechargeable batteries;
 - (18) Propane tanks;
 - (19) Other gas tanks, including lighters;
 - (20) Aerosol containers; and
 - (21) Fire extinguishers.
- M. Waste generated as a result of construction, demolition or renovation, including but

not limited to soil, plaster, drywall, masonry and tile, bricks, concrete, concrete or cinder blocks, paving stones, asphalt, wood, windows and window glass, shingles, scrap metal, insulation (such as fibreglass or styrofoam), asbestos, urea formaldehyde;

N. Scrap wood or carpeting, unless it is cut, broken or securely tied into bundles or pieces less than 120 centimetres by 80 centimetres by 80 centimetres and free of all nails and staples, or as may otherwise be designated by the General Manager;

[Amended 2008-05-27 by By-law No. 506-2008⁶³]

O. Hay, straw, manure or animal excrement;

P. Any waste in liquid form including but not limited to swill or other organic matter not properly drained and securely wrapped;

Q. Sod, grass, grass clippings;

Q.1. Tires; **[Added 2004-09-30 by By-law No. 745-2004]**

R. Waste produced by a person or organization involved in the processing or fabrication of products;

S. Waste produced by a person or organization as a result of commercial or retail activity;

T. Any material which has become frozen to or otherwise attached to its regulation container which cannot be removed by shaking;

U. Broken glass, crockery and other sharp objects not packaged in a manner to prevent

injury to any person; **[Amended 2001-12-06 by By-law No. 1109-2001]**

V. Designated materials and other items which have been banned from landfill or for which reasonable alternative disposal methods are available, as determined by the General Manager; and **[Amended 2008-05-27 by By-law No. 506-2008⁶⁴]**

W. Any other item or thing designated as prohibited waste by the General Manager. **[Amended 2008-05-27 by By-law No. 506-2008⁶⁵]**