

Frequently Asked Questions | Upcoming residential blue recycling cart rollout by Circular Materials and GFL

Background

- Dufferin County ceased to have any responsibility and decision-making/authority on the residential recycling system as of July 1, 2023.
- At County Council on June 26, a [staff report](#) was discussed regarding Circular Materials' decision to change Dufferin County's residential recycling system from blue boxes to blue carts.
- Circular Materials is allowed to change the recycling container size/type under the Blue Box Transition Regulation if the container has enough capacity to store recyclables between collection days.
- The standard new carts are 360L. Pre-ordering of 240L carts for those wanting a smaller size was between December 15, 2025, to January 15, 2026, which is now closed.
- Collection will be kept weekly. Circular Materials may choose to change the collection frequency (i.e. to bi-weekly) in the future at their own discretion.
- Dufferin County continues to be responsible for garbage, organics and yard waste collection as well as Industrial, Commercial and Institutional curbside recycling collection.

Frequently asked questions

Please note these FAQs are to be used to answer questions only. They are not to be posted for public consumption. The County will provide the local municipalities with messaging to be used for communications purposes, prepared by Circular Materials.

- **Who is responsible for recycling in Dufferin County?**
As of July 1, 2023, Dufferin County is no longer responsible for the residential recycling system. Circular Materials is the producer responsibility organization that is responsible for implementing and managing the new extended producer responsibility recycling system in Dufferin County. GFL is contracted to pick up recycling in Dufferin.
- **Why is Circular Materials transitioning to recycling carts?**
On its website, Circular Materials lists the following benefits of recycling carts:
 - Recycling carts, with lids fully closed, help minimize litter and reduce odour and pest issues.
 - Increased storage capacity between collections allows for more space for recyclables.
 - Collection systems with recycling carts create a safer working environment for workers and reduce the risk of injury and accidents.

- When will I receive my recycling cart? And how will I receive it?**
Dufferin households will begin receiving their recycling carts beginning the week of March 2. The deliveries are expected to take a few weeks. There is not a pickup option.
- Can I use my blue box or blue bags (and not use my blue cart) once it is delivered?**
No, all recycling must be placed in the blue cart for collections beginning April 1, 2026.
- If I have purchased my own cart, can I put it out for collection?**
Residents are required to use the recycling cart provided by GFL. These recycling carts have increased storage capacity and can hold more than the capacity of two blue boxes.
- When can I start to use my recycling cart?**
Residents must use their recycling cart as of April 1, 2026. The carts are not to be used before April 1.
- Is the collection frequency for recycling changing?**
No, collection will be weekly on your regular waste collection day. Circular Materials could change this in the future if they so choose.
- Are there any new items that I can place in the blue cart for recycling?**
Yes, the Blue Box Transition Regulation has required additional items to be added to the recycling system, and the list is now standardized across the Province of Ontario. Circular Materials has posted an updated list on their [website](#).
- Where can residents find more information about the changes, blue cart tips and acceptable items?**
Residents can find information on [Circular Materials' website](#).
- Who should a resident contact/call about the residential blue carts and recycling system, including if they have an accommodation request?**
Residents can contact GFL at 1-877-426-4351 or dufferin@gflenv.com for any residential recycling inquiries, including questions about recycling cart rollout.
- I am a business owner/IC&I (Industrial, Commercial & Institutional) location. Does this apply to my location?**
The IC&I curbside recycling system continues to be under the responsibility of Dufferin County. IC&I locations with curbside collections must register with the County for continued service as of January 1, 2026. More information can be found on the [County's website](#).

- **What should I do with my blue boxes once I start using my new recycling cart (post April 1)?**

Broken blue boxes can be taken free of charge to GFL's Transfer Station located at 473051 Dufferin Road 11, Amaranth. If your blue box is not broken, residents are encouraged to use it for other uses around your home.