

Frequently Asked Questions about Corrugated Cardboard



Q: Why is OCC banned from the landfill?

A: OCC is a valuable, easily recyclable material. Banning it from the landfill helps reduce waste, save space, and support sustainable practices.

Q: When is OCC not recyclable?

A: OCC that is wet, greasy, food-soiled, or waxed (like produce or tree planter boxes) must go in the garbage.

Q: What happens if OCC is found in the garbage?

A: Loads may be flagged and may result in contamination fees or rejection at disposal sites.

Q: What's the problem with putting OCC in the landfill?

A: When OCC breaks down in a landfill, it creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. OCC also takes up landfill space and is easily recyclable. Keeping it out of the landfill helps protect the environment and extends the life of our landfill.

Q: Who does this ban apply to?

A: The ban applies to all waste generators: residential, commercial, and industrial. However, industrial and commercial businesses must source alternative locations to recycle their OCC.

Q: Why can only residential generated waste be recycled at RDBN recycling facilities?

A: The recycling facilities located at the RDBN Transfer Stations are for use by residential waste generators. This decision was made through RDBN Board Resolution in 2015, prior to the ban in 2016.

Where to Recycle & Who to Call



Find your nearest site by scanning here, or visiting www.rdbn.bc.ca.



For additional inquiries, please contact the RDBN office:

Call: 250-692-3195 or 1-800-320-3339

Email: waste@rdbn.bc.ca



Corrugated Cardboard in the RDBN

A Guide to the Corrugated Cardboard Ban and Best Practices
2025



What is Corrugated Cardboard

Corrugated cardboard (OCC) boxes are used for packing, storing, and transporting items.

OCC has a rippled middle layer made from craft paper which provides strength and rigidity. Due to its strength and ease of processing, OCC is a valuable commodity over paper.



Why Corrugated Cardboard is Banned from Landfills

OCC is a valuable recyclable material that fills up landfills quickly. Since 2016 the RDBN has adopted measures to keep OCC out of the garbage to help:

- Save room in landfills
- Conserve trees and water
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions
- Promote sustainability
- Incentivize recycling



When Does it Belong in the Garbage

OCC becomes garbage and is not recyclable when it becomes contaminated:

- Soggy
- Greasy or oily
- Food-soiled
- Painted
- Wax-coated (like produce or tree planter boxes)

⊘ These cannot be recycled and must go in the garbage.



Recycling Corrugated Cardboard

To recycle properly:

- ✓ Remove all non-cardboard packaging (foam, wrap, etc.)
- ✓ Flatten or cut to 3 feet by 3 feet or smaller
- ✓ Keep clean and dry

Best Practices:

- ✓ Store cardboard indoors or under shelter from the weather
- ✓ Protect it from other contaminants
- ✓ Drop it off regularly

If you're not sure, ask the attendant at the depot or call the RDBN office.