



DISTRICT OF OAK BAY

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE GARBAGE PICKUP:

WHEELED TOTES REQUIRED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

Fifteen years ago, along with a major expansion of the curbside recycling program, the Municipality switched from "backyard" to curbside garbage collection. At the same time, equipment was purchased which was designed to lift and dump the garbage containers mechanically, so as to avoid repeated lifting by municipal crews.

The new equipment was designed to work with a particular type of container: the now-familiar wheeled tote. Although all residents were required to bring their garbage to the curb, however, the Municipality adopted a gradual approach to the implementation of a universal standard for the container.

Basically, if you were an owner of property prior to mid-1994, you could continue to use regular garbage cans rather than wheeled totes for as long as you owned that property. Once the property was sold, the new owner had to use the wheeled totes.

Most property owners purchased the wheeled totes straight away because they provided a convenient way of getting garbage to the curb. Others kept using their old containers, with the numbers dwindling as properties changed hands over the years.

The number of properties continuing to use ordinary garbage cans, however, remains high enough that it is contributing to time-loss employee injuries associated with the required manual lifting. With fifteen years having passed, Oak Bay Council has decided that it is time to end the "grandfather" arrangement and put in place a universal requirement for the use of the wheeled totes.

Commencing January 1, 2010, therefore, the use of the wheeled totes will become a mandatory condition of the curbside garbage collection service. A tote can be purchased at the Oak Bay Public Works Yard at a cost of \$ 84, all taxes included. The Yard is open for sales Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., excluding holidays.

If you are a renter, you may wish to speak to your landlord about the tote requirement as it would make sense for the tote to stay with the property despite changes in tenancy.

If you have any questions about the garbage collection service, you are welcome to contact the Public Works Yard during office hours at 250-598-4501.