



## Glass Bottles, Jars Are Not Accepted In Blue Recycling Carts

In the spring of 2015, we launched the **Composting (Green Cart)** and **Recycling (Blue Cart)** Curbside programs for our residents. Chestermere is among many other municipalities across Western Canada that, at this time, **cannot accept any glass bottles or jars** in the **Blue Recycling Carts**. CUI does not take Chestermere's recycling to the City of Calgary recycling sorting facility, therefore, we cannot recycle the same items as residents of Calgary.

### What is CUI's Role in the Glass Recycling Process?

CUI is the collector of our customer's recyclables in Chestermere but we do not control the multiple steps that happen to the recycling material after it is collected from the **Blue Carts** or at the Recycle Depot.

### The Life Cycle of Glass Materials (such as jars and other non-deposit bottles):





### **Has CUI (via a processor) Sold Any Non-Deposit Glass on the Recycle Market?**

We have never sold glass on the market. The sale of glass has always been handled by the materials processor, where glass is sent for processing (see life cycle above). If glass enters the recycle stream, we must pay to dispose of it by sending it to the landfill. This defeats the entire exercise of trying to recycle it in the first place.

Non-deposit glass has not been processed for a number of years. The market for it has vanished, any glass being collected as recyclable is simply being stockpiled, with any space for storing it quickly disappearing or sent to landfills. This lack of a glass market is beyond the control of municipalities across Alberta and the rest of Western Canada.

We all rely on the recycling market to help develop our recycling options. We provide the recyclable materials when and where there is a market for the items. However, as the glass market currently sits, if it were to start up again, there would be an immediate and overwhelming supply of materials, far outstripping any demand there may be.

### **Can Other Options for Non-Deposit Glass be Explored?**

Absolutely. If we can find a viable and sustainable market, we will begin collecting glass. The problem is, there is no market available right now or in the near future. Unfortunately, as mentioned earlier, we cannot control the market, we can only adapt to the current market conditions.

We are constantly searching for options of what to do with the glass and where it could go, and we are not alone. We continue to work with other municipalities, provincial solid waste management organizations, contractors, and others to try and find viable solutions of dealing with the non-deposit glass materials. Bottom line, the non-refundable glass containers are not a recyclable at this time. If a community is accepting it in their recycle collection stream, unfortunately the materials are either being stockpiled or more commonly, sent into the landfills. **There are no viable recycle options on how to deal with this glass at this time.**

### **Why is NO Glass Accepted into the Blue Carts in Chestermere?**

We ask our customers to keep all glass items out of their **Blue Carts** because it breaks so easily during the collection process. This breakage poses serious problems for the recycling process as the broken pieces are a mix of large chunks to powder and they contaminate all the other materials inside the **Blue Cart**. When the broken glass mixes with fibrous materials in the **Blue Cart** (cardboard, paper, and boxboard), it is extremely difficult to properly recycle those materials as they become contaminated and unusable.

Broken glass is also a major safety hazard and becomes dangerous for those workers who sort the recycling. Not only is this sorting process dangerous for workers having to deal with broken glass, it is also extremely labour intensive, which significantly adds to the expense of dealing with the material.

#### **Did You Know:**

***Non-refundable glass containers make up only 20% of all glass containers.***

***Refundable glass bottles (such as juice, wine, spirits and beer) make up 80% of all recyclable glass in the market. These ARE accepted at local bottle depots.***



### **What Do I Do With All These Glass Containers?**

- Give them a whole new life. Check Pinterest for fabulous ideas on how to repurpose jars and bottles. A quick search of “Reuse”, “Upcycle” and “Jars” gave us oodles of fun (and functional) options to check out. Some of our favorites included the Recycled Jar Terrariums, String Light Illuminating Jars, See-Through Storage Jars (so much prettier than the original packaging, which is probably recyclable), Sewing Kits in a Jar, Kids Summer Job Jars, Soap Dispensers and Snack Jars.
- Share your containers with a friend or family members. Post them on local social media pages such as I Love Chestermere; visit [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org) or Kijiji to find someone who may have a great reuse for them.
- Refundable glass bottles, such as juice, wine, spirits and beer that you paid a deposit for at the store, can be taken to the local bottle depots for cash refunds. Even better, consider donating your collection of empties to a local non-profit organization who will gladly accept them.

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