Clean Wood Disposal Ban

On January 1, 2015, Metro Vancouver will launch a six-month education program on the new Clean Wood Disposal Ban at all Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver transfer stations and disposal facilities (Regional Facilities).

Come July 1, 2015, a 50% surcharge will be applied to all loads of garbage containing clean wood delivered to Regional Facilities, if the quantity of wood exceeds 10% of the garbage load.

What is clean wood?

Clean wood is solid wood, lumber, and pallets that are unpainted, unstained, free of glue, and untreated. The wood may be pierced with nails or other metal fasteners, such as screws and staples.

Based on a recent Metro Vancouver waste composition study, clean wood waste makes up approximately nine per cent of all waste from the Metro Vancouver region currently going to disposal.

Why is Metro Vancouver banning clean wood from disposal?

Metro Vancouver is focusing on clean wood because this material can be salvaged for reuse or recycled into compost or alternative industrial fuel. Opportunities to recycle other types of wood, like painted or chemically treated wood, are still under development.

The Clean Wood Disposal Ban is one of many initiatives in the region's Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan. Within this Plan, Metro Vancouver’s goal is to raise the region’s waste diversion rate from the current 60% to an aspirational goal of 80% by 2020. This would place Metro Vancouver among the regions in the world with the highest levels of recycling.

How much clean wood will be accepted in a load of garbage before surcharges are applied?

Up to 10% clean wood will be accepted in garbage loads before a surcharge is applied.*

* This threshold is intended to decrease to 5% in 2016

How will the Clean Wood Disposal Ban be enforced?

Metro Vancouver Disposal Ban inspectors inspect disposal loads in the tipping area at Regional Facilities. Loads found to contain clean wood in excess of the threshold will be assessed a 50% surcharge on the tipping fee for the entire load.

What can customers do to comply with the ban and avoid surcharges?

Customers can separate clean wood from all other residential, commercial, or institutional waste, for delivery to green waste drop-off areas at Regional Facilities.

Clean Wood Disposal Ban FAQ
Where is clean wood waste collected?
Clean wood is collected in the Green Waste (yard trimmings) area of Regional Facilities for composting. Certain private facilities also accept wood in mixed or sorted loads and may use it to produce fuels or wood products. For more information on where to take your clean wood, call the Recycling Hotline at 604-RECYCLE or visit www.MetroVancouverRecycles.org.

What happens to recycled or reused clean wood?
Clean wood waste can be used for a number of applications, and the market for it is still growing. Currently, it is used for:
1. landscaping mulch, depending on the quality of the wood
2. composting
3. alternative industrial fuel
Some clean wood can also be reused in construction.

How are municipalities diverting wood from construction and demolition waste?
Municipalities can encourage the reuse and recycling of materials from demolition sites, and construction sites, through municipal Demolition and Building Permits. Bylaws may require a Waste Disposal and Recycling Plan (including copies of WorkSafe BC notifications) and direct all recyclable materials to authorized outlets, including private waste management facilities.

These requirements on demolition and construction sites would provide a reliable supply of clean wood to processing facilities in the region.

What reuse initiatives is Metro Vancouver supporting?
Metro Vancouver hosts MetroVancouverRecycles.org, an online directory for businesses and residents to look for reuse and recycling options for materials they may have. Metro Vancouver is also exploring diversion programs for clean wood lumber at Regional Facilities.

Are there any plans for industry and consumer education?
Metro Vancouver has developed the Demolition, Landclearing, and Construction (DLC) Waste Management Toolkit to assist construction, renovation, and demolition projects increase the reuse and recycling of materials. Many other resources are also available online.

As part of the Clean Wood Disposal Ban, Metro Vancouver is reaching out to industry associations to inform the construction and renovation sectors about the upcoming Disposal Ban and opportunities to reuse and recycle clean wood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call the Recycling Hotline at 604-RECYCLE (604-732-9253)

Recycling Council of BC staff can answer your questions about the Clean Wood Disposal Ban and other recycling initiatives in Metro Vancouver.

For information on where to take your clean wood visit www.MetroVancouverRecycles.org.

For online resources, visit MetroVancouver.org and search “clean wood”.