

LTT - February - Milk and Milk Products

As of February 1, 2022 you might notice that you're now paying a 10-cent deposit on any "ready to drink" milk and plant based (eg. soy, oat, coconut, cashew, almond, rice) beverage. Paying that deposit means that you'll be able to return the containers (rinsed and with the cap on and straw pushed in) for a 10-cent refund at any Return-It site in BC. Anything with a best-before-date prior to February 1st is exempt from the deposit system. No deposit paid means no deposit refunded.

Return-It is part of Encorp Pacific, a not-for-profit stewardship agency. Return-It is not funded by the government or paid for by tax dollars. It's paid for by consumers, retailers, manufacturers and Encorp Pacific. Encorp charges only the net cost for recovering and recycling beverage containers. Along with other BC Stewardship agencies, they are responsible for collecting and diverting end of life consumer products and packaging from improper disposal

Deposits are set through government regulation. Milk and plant based beverage containers have been added to the Return-It system because of a BC Government recycling regulation change implemented through the CleanBC Plastic Action Plan. The hope is that the added incentive of a deposit will encourage people to recycle responsibly and to further keep plastics and other containers out of landfills, oceans and waterways.

Container Recycling Fees (CRF's) have been in place for beverage containers in BC for more than eighteen years. The CRF varies according to each beverage container category and reflects the current economic conditions, commodity prices and beverage volumes. For a complete breakdown of container type, size and deposit go to <https://www.return-it.ca/beverage/products/>.

The new recycling regulation about milk and milk-like products has exceptions. Beverages including infant formula, meal replacements, dietary supplements, coffee cream and other coffee additives, whipping cream, buttermilk, drinkable yogurt and kefir containers will NOT carry a deposit. These

are still recyclable, though, so keep washing and drying them well and bringing them into the recycling depot.

You can continue to bring the this new category of deposit milk and plant based beverage containers to the Lasqueti depot (rinsed, dry and with caps on so they don't attract vermin) unless you want to claim your refund. If you lived in a town and used the blue box recycling system, the same would apply. The only way to get back your deposit is through Return-It. If you bring the containers to the Lasqueti depot Waste Manager, depot staff claim the refund when they take the containers to Parksville Bottle Depot. Depot staff are no longer collecting deposit containers made of glass, but continue to accept those made of plastic, aluminum and plasticized paper.

The Parksville Bottle and Recycling is the nearest Return-It to Lasqueti. They accept all refundable beverages containers: glass, plastic, aluminum, gable top, pouch, bag in a box or bi-metal. Please leave the lids on and push the straws in to ensure all plastic pieces are recycled.

You can also take your end of life electronics, small appliances and paint to Parksville Bottle and Recycling for disposal.

Trash Removal System: February 9, 2022 the second Wednesday of the month, 10 am until the barge is full at the False Bay barge ramp. Any changes due to weather will be posted on the email list, FB Lasqueti Hot-wire, and the Lasqueti website. No construction materials, renovation or demolition waste, prohibited waste, organics, recyclable material or stewardship materials. \$5 per bag, \$25 per average truckload. Mattresses and boxsprings \$15 each. Please call Mark (250 240 9886) if you have any questions about what constitutes acceptable garbage.

Recycling Depot: Fall/Winter Hours October 1st - March 31st

Mondays 10 am - 2 pm, Thursdays 1 - 5 pm

Closed on Statutory Holidays. All recycling is monitored. Staff are happy to help with sorting questions.

Free Store: Fall/Winter Hours October 1st - March 31st

Thursdays 1 - 5 pm and occasional Mondays

Please wear your mask indoors and respect social distancing. Drop donations during open hours. Useful items only i.e. clean, usable clothing and household items. **No:** food, garbage, recycling, TV's, soft foam, mattresses or hazardous materials ie: chemicals, fluorescent light tubes, prescription/non-prescription drugs, or pills in general. There are recycling programs available for some labeled hazardous liquids, all light bulbs/tubes, and prescription medication can be brought to a pharmacy for proper disposal (empty pills into a ziplock bag and recycle bottle at depot after blacking out personal information).

Recycle BC Website: www.recyclebc.ca/what-can-i-recycle

Return-It Beverage Depot open 24/7

Front left of Free Store. It's not part of Mark's contract to deal with refundable beverages. He no longer takes glass (beer, wine, hard liquor) containers. Please take these over yourself. He'll continue to accept aluminum beer, cider, pop cans, coconut water cans, boxed wine cartons (leave them intact) and tetra juice packs. Please leave the caps on and push the straws in.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions for me and the qRD Let's Talk Trash team, please get in touch! jennyv@lasqueti.ca or 8601