

C. RECYCLING IN MANITOBA

The Government of Manitoba has chosen an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) approach that engages industry to properly dispose, manage and recycle designated waste products.

Manitoba has established 12 programs to recycle:

- used oil and antifreeze, oil filters, and containers
- scrap vehicle tires
- beverage containers
- packaging and printed paper
- farm chemical containers
- single use and rechargeable batteries
- lead-acid batteries
- mercury thermostats
- medications
- electronic equipment
- cell phones
- household hazardous waste

MANITOBA
recycling
PROGRAMS



These programs are managed by a network of Producer Responsibility Organizations, which are non-profit, industry-operated stewardship organizations.

This toolkit focuses on 8 of the 12 Producer Responsibility Organizations. They deal with the types of recyclable materials your community is most likely to start collecting.

For simplicity, they are referred to as 'industry recycling organizations' throughout this toolkit.

For general information on all 12 organizations, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/mb_recycling



BOTTLE DEPOSIT VS. LEVY

Why don't Manitobans get money back for recycling beverage containers?

The following is adapted from articles written by Deb Odegaard of the Flin Flon Recycling Centre.

Many Manitobans want to know why they don't receive cash when they return their pop containers to be recycled. The answer is because they didn't pay a deposit when the container was purchased.

Some provinces, like Saskatchewan, charge a deposit when consumers buy a beverage such as a can or bottle of pop. Why doesn't Manitoba collect a deposit? Because it is more expensive.

For example, when you buy a bottle of pop in Saskatchewan you are charged a 10 cent deposit and a 6 cent recycling levy. The deposit is higher for larger containers like 2-litre bottles.

If the can or bottle is returned to a recycling depot in Saskatchewan, the 10 cent deposit is returned. The 6 cents is not returned and is used to run the deposit program.

The Bottom Line

1. Taking used beverage containers from Manitoba and returning them for the deposit in other provinces is illegal.
2. Running a deposit system is more expensive.
3. When used beverage containers are returned for deposit in another province, it means the community collects fewer containers locally and receives less money to run the recycling program.

In Manitoba, a 2 cent Container Recycling Fee is charged for non-alcoholic beverage containers to support community recycling of the containers. (Beer containers can be returned to vendors for a deposit.)

Compared to Manitoba, the deposit system in Saskatchewan costs the consumer 4 cents more if the container is returned for deposit. If the consumer doesn't return the container to be recycled, they paid 14 cents more than in Manitoba.

Which system is better? It is difficult to say. Recycling rates for beverage containers are somewhat higher in Saskatchewan but Manitoba's system is less expensive for people buying beverages because it's less expensive to operate.

One reality is some people take beverage containers bought in Manitoba to recycling depots in Saskatchewan.

This cheats the consumers in Saskatchewan who have paid the deposit, their recycling program, and the Manitoba system.

It lowers recycling volumes in Manitoba community programs and reduces their recycling subsidy.

And it is illegal.