

Definitions of Blue Box Wastes

Definition of Blue Box Waste

Regulation 2002.0351.e under the Waste Diversion Act 2000 defines Blue Box Waste as the following:

Waste that consists of any of the following materials, or any combination of them, is prescribed as blue box waste for the purpose of the Act:

1. Glass.
2. Metal.
3. Paper.
4. Plastic.
5. Textiles.

This definition is broad in scope and encompasses packaging and printed materials and potentially a wide range of consumer products. However, given that municipal blue box programs collect primarily packaging and printed materials and do not generally collect consumer products the Stewardship Ontario blue box program plan addresses only consumer packaging material and printed papers commonly found in household wastes.

Definition of Packaging Materials

Stewardship Ontario has adopted the following definition of packaging largely based on the European Parliament and Council Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste (94/62/EC). The definitions have been modified to suit the requirements and WDA and the accompanying Blue Box Waste Regulation.

1. 'Packaging` shall mean all products made of paper, glass, metal, plastics, textiles or any combination of above to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or the consumer. 'Non-returnable` items used for the same purposes shall also be considered to constitute packaging. 'Packaging` for the purposes of the Blue Box Program Plan consists only of:
 - (a) Sales packaging or primary packaging, i. e. packaging conceived so as to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of purchase;
 - (b) Grouped packaging or secondary packaging, i. e. packaging conceived so as to constitute at the point of purchase a grouping of a certain number of sales units whether the latter is sold as such to the final user or consumer or whether it serves only as a means to

replenish the shelves at the point of sale; it can be removed from the product without affecting its characteristics;

- (c) Transportation, distribution or tertiary packaging that is conceived to be distributed to household consumers. For example large appliances are packaged in large corrugated boxes similar to transportation packaging. If this packaging is intended for final use or management by the consumer or end user, it is considered obligated packaging under the Blue Box Program Plan. Transportation packaging that is NOT intended primarily for use or management by the consumer (e.g. removed by the retailer prior to placing products on the store shelf) is not considered obligated packaging under the Stewardship Ontario program.
- (d) The definition of "packaging" shall also take into consideration the criteria set out below.

1. Items shall be considered packaging if they fulfil the definition above without prejudice to other functions which the packaging might also perform, unless the item is an integral part of a product and all elements are intended to be consumed or disposed of together.

Examples of Packaging	Examples of Non- Packaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Box of chocolates - Film over wrap around a CD case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flower pots intended to stay with the plant throughout its life - Tool boxes - Tea bags - Wax layers around cheese - Sausage skins - Gift bags, gift wrap and tissue paper

2. Items designed and intended to be filled at the point of sale and "disposable" items sold, filled or designed and intended to be filled at the point of sale shall be considered packaging provided they fulfil a packaging function. This is know as service or in-store packaging and is discussed further in Section 9.4.3.

Examples of Packaging	Examples of Non- Packaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper or plastic carry-out bags - Disposable plates and cups - Pizza box - Sandwich bags - Flower box/wrap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stirrer - Disposable cutlery - Napkins

3. Packaging components and ancillary elements integrated into packaging shall be considered as part of the packaging into which they are integrated. Ancillary elements directly hung or attached to a product and which perform a packaging function shall be considered packaging unless they are an integral part of this product and all elements are intended to be consumed or disposed of together.

Examples of Packaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Labels hung directly on or attached to a product- Mascara brush which forms part of the container closure- Sticky labels attached to another packaging item- Staples, pins, clips- Device for measuring dosage which forms part of the container closure for detergents."

Definition of Printed Papers

As a general definition, Stewardship Ontario designates all printed paper as Blue Box Waste. Printed papers covered by this definition include, but are not limited to:

- Daily, weekly, newspapers including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels.
- Daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly glossy magazines including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels.
- Product catalogues including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels.
- Directories including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels.
- Lottery tickets and lottery information.
- Warranty information, assembly instructions, product use instructions and health information, product registration cards and promotional information that is found inside purchased products.
- Envelopes, statements and information inserts from banks, credit companies, utilities, service providers
- Information, forms and promotional materials distributed by municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments
- Business, Investment and securities information (e.g. annual reports, mutual fund prospectus)
- Promotional calendars, posters that are distributed to consumers, free of charge (e.g. real estate calendars)
- Unsolicited promotional information, coupons, handbills and flyers
- Transportation and transit schedules

Exceptions to this rule include paper products that are not intended for home use, purchased paper products and published books. The list includes, but is not limited to:

- Subscription magazines, directories and resource books that go directly to business addresses, government offices, educational and public libraries
- Published soft cover and hardcover books, including textbooks
- Purchased calendars
- Greeting cards
- Blank note and writing pads
- Note books
- Purchased posters
- Daytime and schedule organizers
- Unprinted copier, writing, computer paper
- Purchased file folders

Stewardship Ontario will review these definitions and exemptions annually.