

## **HOW TO PURCHASE A BLUE BOX:**

Blue boxes can be purchased at several retailers throughout the Comox Valley or preferably, for box quality reasons, through the Town's contractor, EMTERRA. You can do this by either:

- Visiting their office in Cumberland at 2982 Ulverston Avenue, between 8am & 5pm, and paying a fee of \$12.00 (tax included) by Cash, Visa or MasterCard. Or,
- Phone their office at 250-336-8066 and pay \$12.00 (tax included) by Visa or MasterCard and an EMTERRA driver will deliver blue box to your address within a couple days (no delivery fee).

**Be sure to purchase a high-quality blue box as any damage done to the box, such as cracking or breakage, will be the customer's responsibility**

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If your blue box is full, extra recyclables can be placed in any other open container next to the blue box - however, ensure that these additional containers (when filled) do not exceed the basic dimensions of the blue box and remember the weight limit on containers of 35 pounds - **NO LIMITS ON RECYCLING QUANTITIES.**

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## **WHY CHANGE FROM BLUE BAGS TO BLUE BOXES?**

### **1. COST SAVING FOR CUSTOMERS**

Customers can make a one-time purchase of the blue box versus the ongoing cost and inconvenience of purchasing blue bags.

Blue boxes currently cost \$12.00 (inc. tax) whereas blue bags cost approx. \$0.30 cents each. The average household uses 3-5 blue bags per bi-weekly service. This is an annual cost to the resident of \$41.34 per year for blue bags.

Also, it is time consuming for staff to rip open the blue bags at the processing plant. With the blue bins the truck just dumps the load into the facility and sorting begins. The operational costs savings are passed onto customers.

### **2. SAFETY FOR DRIVERS & SORTING FACILITY STAFF**

Unfortunately some customers were putting glass, needles, diapers and other garbage items into the blue bags. These items were not noticeable until the bags were ripped opened at the sorting facility by the staff. With the blue boxes the drivers can visually notice these items while dumping the contents into the truck and address the issue at that time.

### **3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

Since its inception, the availability and use of blue boxes in the Town of Comox has dramatically increased the amount of recyclable materials diverted from the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre.