

Centralized Sorting: FAQs

Confederation College is committed to improving campus waste management. To encourage the College community to take full advantage of existing waste stream sorting and improve our waste diversion rate campus wide we have implemented centralized sorting.

What is centralized sorting?

Centralized sorting is a type of waste management system where all trash and recyclable materials are collected and sorted at easy to access locations - eliminating the need for individual waste and recycle bins.

Why is Confederation College using centralized sorting?

In our last waste audit, we had a waste diversion rate of 19% - meaning 19% of our waste was diverted from landfill via recycling efforts. We want to improve our diversion rate and one way we can do that is standardizing our waste sorting stations and ensuring that all campus users are throwing away their waste properly. Advantages of centralized sorting are: standardized waste separation across campus; reduced confusion of where waste should be thrown away; reduced the amount of unnecessary waste and recycle bins; and reduced the amount of plastic bin liners utilized.

Where are waste bins located?

Waste bins are located in hallways, cafeteria and eating spaces, kitchenettes, and lab spaces. Kitchenettes are defined as common spaces for food preparation and consumption that include a sink. All bins are grouped together to create waste sorting stations, making it easy to sort waste.

Note: waste bins in lab spaces are meant for waste generated in the lab only, all other types of waste should be sorted at a hallway waste sorting station.

What do I do with waste in a classroom?

There are no waste bins in classrooms, all waste in classrooms must be brought to a waste sorting station. If students are generating waste in a classroom, the student is responsible for bringing that waste to a waste sorting station. To limit disruptions during class, you can remind students to take their garbage to a waste sorting station during a designated break time, when they are going to the washroom, or at the end of class. We recognize that centralized sorting is a habit change from what many students and staff are used to and getting used to these changes will take time. Consistent reminders to students at the start and end of class about removing their waste from class and appropriate times to do it will support this adjustment.

Can I have a bin in my office?

Yes - you can have a waste and recycle bin in your office. If you would like to have a bin in your office you are responsible for sorting and disposing of your bin contents at a hallway waste sorting station, office bins are not emptied by the cleaners. Bins or bags left in the hallway are not acceptable, you must sort your own waste at a waste sorting station. When your office bin is removed a letter will be left at your work station providing details about how to request a bin for your office space.

Note: office bins will not have a bag liner in them, messy garbage should be disposed of immediately in a hallway waste sorting station.

How do I return my office bin?

If you took an office bin and no longer need it, email SDG@confederationcollege.ca to arrange a pickup. Once your bin is returned your name and office number sticker will be removed from the bin so it can be reassigned.

What are our waste streams?

We have four waste streams at Confederation College:

- **Containers:** glass containers, pop and metal cans, milk cartons and juice boxes, plastic containers #1-7, and coffee cup lids
- **Paper/Fibre:** all clean paper, newspaper, soft cover books, egg cartons, boxboard, cardboard, magazines
- **Organics:** all food waste such as fruit, vegetables, pizza, sandwiches, bread, meat, fries, etc.
- **Landfill:** all other waste, food wrappers, single use coffee cups, food containers, candy, gum, etc.

All hallway waste sorting stations are clearly labeled and have signage to help you dispose of your waste in the right stream.

What happens if waste is incorrectly sorted?

If waste is placed in the wrong stream, it contaminates that stream of waste. When a recycle stream becomes contaminated it can no longer be recycled and would end up in the landfill stream.

Will the organics bins smell?

Organics bins will be emptied regularly and will not be a source of smell. The waste that we are throwing away has not changed - the only thing we have changed is the way we sort our waste. Separating organics from the landfill stream will not automatically produce a smell. If you have an issue with a waste sorting station smelling please email cleaning@confederationcollege.ca.

How do we handle confidential or sensitive documents?

Documents that require shredding will still be placed in grey shredding bins. Each department manages shredding bins differently, please speak with your manager to get the details you need for your department.

Do we have any specialized waste streams on campus?

Yes! Specialized waste streams on campus are:

- **Textiles:** all textile materials in any condition, including clothing, bedding, towels, stuffed animals, etc. can be recycled in the Sic Sox Ltd. bins in **Parking Lot M by the McIntyre Building** off Williams Street.
- **Batteries:** all dry cell batteries weighing less than 5 kg can be recycled in any building on campus. All buildings have battery recycling bins **near main entrances**.
- **PPE:** all **health labs** have PPE recycling receptacles in them for PPE related materials.