



HAVE YOU  
HEARD THE  
GOOD NEWS?

On **November 1, 2021** the County is rolling out a new easy and safe automated cart collection system to all eligible Simcoe County households.

### **Q: What is automated cart collection?**

**A:** The County is rolling out an automated cart collection system in November 1, 2021. This system is an easy and safe solution to curbside waste collection services.

In the cart system, garbage, recycling, and organic materials are stored and set out at your curb in easy-to-use wheeled carts, so there's no more bending over to lift and carry different boxes, bins and bags to the curb.

Carts are emptied using a mechanical arm on the collection vehicle, which is an efficient touch-free system that helps keep everyone safer.

### **Q: Why are we switching to automated cart collection?**

**A:** Carts are used across North America because they are easier, safer and provide a better overall service to residents.

- **Easier to use:** Carts offer the added convenience of wheels, lids, and a gravity locking system on organics carts that opens automatically when carts are collected
- **More space for waste:** Instead of several smaller bins and bags, residents will have just two carts ready to roll to the curb each week
- **Require less storage space:** You can reduce your storage footprint for your waste by up to 50% by consolidating smaller bins, boxes and containers into the larger carts
- **Safer and more predictable service:** As well as being great for residents, the automated system is safer and less strenuous for collection workers, and helps fight transmission of pathogens. This expands the labour force so service delays due to labour shortages don't occur
- **Good for the environment:** Our automated cart collection doesn't just improve curbside aesthetics. In addition to reducing windblown litter, the new organics cart is 2 and half times larger than our current green bin to further encourage greater diversion and reduce garbage

### **Q: I have limited space; how can I store my carts?**

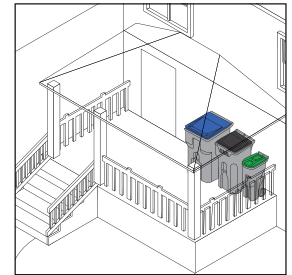
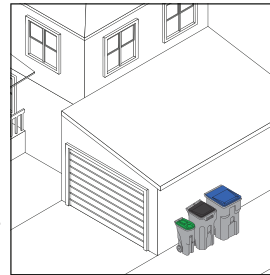
**A:** Carts have been rolled out successfully all-over North America, including more than 1.5 million locations in Toronto where storage space is limited. For many of our residents these new carts will help reduce their storage footprint for waste by up to 50% by consolidating smaller bins, boxes and containers into the larger carts which provide vertical storage.

Cart sizes were chosen based on the average waste needs per household, accounting for future needs. The recycling cart will hold the equivalent of four recycling bins; your new garbage cart can hold more than two regular sized black garbage bags, and we've increased the capacity for your organics to better serve the environment.

**Q: What if I don't have a garage, or my garage has limited storage space?**

**A:**

- **No garage:** For residents without a garage, the lids and gravity locking system on our organics cart means that bins can now be stored outside the home and remain protected from animals and weather
- **Small garage:** By consolidating many of your materials into a larger cart you are saving valuable floor space, instead of multiple smaller bins, boxes and you now have three carts with increased vertical space for your waste

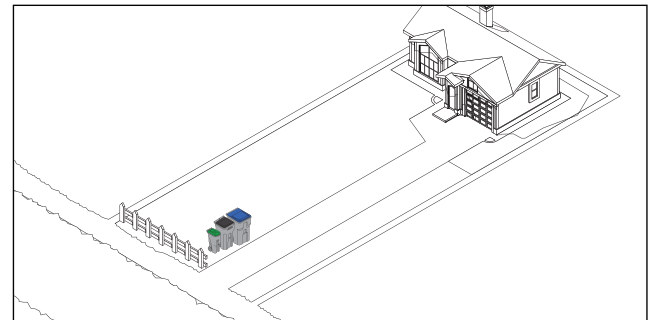


**Q: What if I don't need such large carts?**

**A:** Cart sizes are universal. The size of the carts was determined to meet the needs of the average County household based on the quantity of waste produced by a typical serviced unit. As our carts will last between 10 and 20 years, we are allowing some capacity for additional recycling materials in the future. Given the ability to store more waste in the carts, you may only need to set some of your materials out once a month.

**Q: I'm concerned about bringing carts to the end of my driveway**

**A:** If you have a long driveway, as many of our rural residents do, you may choose to leave your carts near the end of your driveway and transfer your materials to your carts as needed. Lids and the locking system on the organics cart will protect against inclement weather conditions and animals.



Carts are also much easier to roll out to the curb, and most households will be able to reduce the quantity of bins and containers they use each week.

Rural communities across Ontario, including Timmins, Sudbury and Southgate Township are already utilizing carts successfully.

**Q: How big are the carts and how much can I put in them?**

**A:** To help families plan ahead, the precise dimensions of the carts are shown below.

- Cart sizes are universal and were chosen based on the average waste needs per household in the County of Simcoe, accounting for future needs. If you require additional capacity, extra recycling bins or tagged garbage bags can be placed at the curb beside the carts. One large cart with a blue lid for recyclables is equivalent to four of our current recycling bins
- One medium-sized cart with a black lid for garbage -has enough space for two full large black bags
- The new green cart with gravity locking lid for organics is two and a half times larger than our current green bins to encourage greater diversion of organics and account for seasonal fluctuations such as for pumpkins, pet waste, turkey carcasses

**CART DIMENSIONS**

| <b>Cart Type</b> | <b>Capacity</b> | <b>Height</b> | <b>Depth Front to Back</b> | <b>Width Side to Side</b> |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Recycling        | 360 litres      | 110.4 cm      | 84.5 cm                    | 74.1 cm                   |
| Garbage          | 240 litres      | 102.8 cm      | 71.4 cm                    | 67.8 cm                   |
| Organics         | 120 litres      | 95.2 cm       | 62.2 cm                    | 46.9 cm                   |

**Q: When will I get my new cart?**

**A:** The County will deliver approximately 450,000 carts between August and the end of October. Each eligible unit will receive a set of three complimentary carts for use after November 1st, 2021.

**Q: What if my cart gets damaged?**

**A:** The County is implementing a cart maintenance and replacement program. Should your bins become damaged, please contact Service Simcoe or visit [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca) for more details.

**Q: How can seniors or residents with mobility concern move the cart?**

**A:** Getting materials to the curb just got easier. Carts have been designed around the user, with practicality rolled-in:

- Mobility issues – Our carts are easy to use; no more bending over to lift and carry different boxes, bins and bags to the curb. These stable carts allow materials to be easily moved around with very limited effort
- Seniors - With large wheels and ergonomic handles, all residents, including seniors and those with accessibility requirements, should find it easier to roll carts to the curb

**Q: How will the carts cope with Canadian winters?**

**A:** Wheels are designed to work well in our snowy weather conditions and many northern communities such as Timmins, Sault St. Marie, Winnipeg and Yellowknife are using carts successfully. Just as with your current waste set-out it is important to clear a spot for carts at the curb, do not place carts on or behind snowbanks.

**Q: How does the change to carts impact seasonal residents and cottagers?**

**A:** Many of our seasonal residents are already familiar with collection carts at their primary residences.

In Simcoe County, cottagers on small rural roads will use carts and continue to be serviced using specialized smaller collection vehicles.

In rural communities or cottage areas already using cart systems, many residents choose to leave their carts at the end of their driveway. Their carts are used as a replacement for garbage boxes.

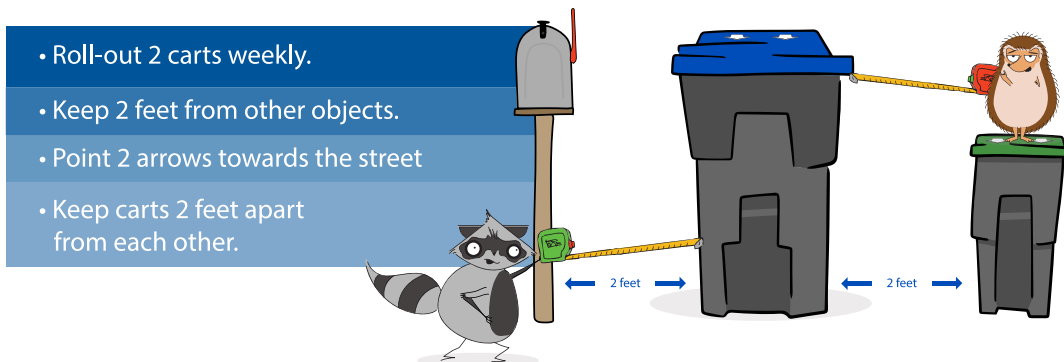
**Q: How do I set my bins out for collection each week?**

**A:** Collections will continue on the same frequency, with weekly organics collection and alternating bi-weekly garbage and recycling collection, so residents will now have two carts ready to roll to the curb each week.

Instruction for setting out carts will be provided with the bin distribution, occurring between August and October 2021. A helpful tip is to follow the Rule of 2. When setting your carts out for collection, keep the carts 2 feet apart from each other and 2 feet from other all objects such as vehicles, mailboxes or fences.

Set carts within 8 feet of the travelled portion of the road so that the mechanical arm can pick up and return the carts to the same spot they were placed after collection occurs. Visit [carts.simcoe.ca](http://carts.simcoe.ca) for more details.

# FOLLOW THE RULES OF 2:



**Q: Why is my collection day changing?**

**A:** As we move to our new automated cart collection system, your collection day may change. Your collection time will change. As new routes have been created, during the first months it's anticipated that routes may need to be adjusted. To ensure collection, it's always best to have materials out by 7 a.m.

We are moving to a four-day collection schedule to allow us to schedule missed collections due to weather or other impacts on Fridays, meaning that residents can expect more predictability to their service.

For more information on your collection day, or to receive real-time service alerts, download the Simcoe County Collects App.



**Q: Do the carts protect against animals, including bears?**

**A:** Carts have lids and our organics cart has a gravity locking system, which will keep critters out and automatically unlock when collected. Carts are being widely utilized very successfully in other jurisdictions where bears are more prevalent including in Timmins and Sault Ste. Marie. If a bear has scavenged your cart, contact Service Simcoe for an alternative solution.

**Q: What will I do with my old containers (blue boxes, green bin and garbage cans)?**

**A:** Unwanted green bins, recycling boxes and garbage pails can be brought to a County Waste Facility (free of charge) for a limited time to be recycled. Alternatively, there are many ways to re-purpose your old bins:

- **Blue Boxes** can be used for occasional overflow recyclables or to place your leaf and yard waste at the curb. They also work great for storage
- **Garbage Cans** can be used for occasional overflow garbage but will require a County garbage tag to be affixed. Garbage cans are also handy for storing rakes, shovels, hockey sticks, etc.
- **Green Bins** can be used to store items like birdseed, pet food or driveway sand or salt in the winter

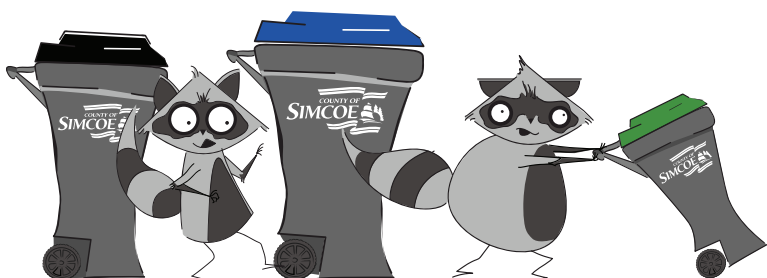
**Q: Will I be eligible for carts if I live in an apartment, condominium or on a private road?**

**A:** You must be currently receiving curbside waste collection from the County of Simcoe to be eligible for cart collection. To determine eligibility for curbside waste collection service at your apartment, condominium development, or private road please have your property management company contact the County at [service@simcoe.ca](mailto:service@simcoe.ca) or 1-800-263-3199.

**Q: Will our taxes go up? What will it cost?**

**A:** The cost of waste collection service is increasing significantly across the province. Recently, some local municipalities have seen waste collection costs double for the identical service level. The cost of automated cart collection is estimated at \$315 annually for the average County home, including the cost of carts, collection service, disposal or processing fees for the various materials collected and related administrative costs. This investment will result in significant improvements to the reliability to our collection system.

The County is always searching for the most cost-effective solution. County Councillors voted for new carts with all black cart bodies and lids that are coloured to indicate contents. This option has resulted in an approximate \$180,000 savings versus having individually coloured bins. The all-black bodies also contain a higher percentage of recycled materials, representing a wise choice for the environment as well as the budget.



[carts.simcoe.ca](http://carts.simcoe.ca)