

Strata Living

Headline: New regs on recycling

Topic: Recycling

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Written by: Tony Gioventu

Dear Tony: Our strata corporation has had an ongoing garbage problem with owners refusing to use the recycling. Part of the problem is our building does not have a large enough area to hold both garbage and recycling in the same area, so it's inconvenient for owners to separate. Now we have been reading about new regulations for composting and we have concerns about those implications. How have other strata corporations managed to solve these problems?

Audrey M. Vancouver

Dear Audrey: As of January 1, new rules are in place to encourage residents and businesses in Metro Vancouver to separate food waste from regular garbage. Initial enforcement will focus on large generators of food waste like supermarkets, and major restaurants and hotels. And, the first six months will be an education period when no penalties will be charged in order to give residents and businesses additional time to implement effective plans for separating food waste from the garbage. The program is being implemented over 3 years, and starting in 2015, no more than 25% of the garbage is permitted to contain more than organic waste. That drops to 10% in 2016 and 5% in 2017. The first 6 months this year will be targeted on public education and awareness and the regulations do apply to multi family buildings including townhouse complexes and apartment buildings. Older buildings often have a challenge due to space limitations or building designs, and for most communities, smaller

containers and more frequent pick ups have been the best solution. Smaller containers are used for waste, recycling, and now organic waste, so they can be located in a single area, and the frequent pick of waste and organics will reduce odours and pest and rodent infestations. Contact your waste management service provider to identify container options available and the schedule of removal to accommodate your strata. It also means strata councils and managers will now have additional requirements to educate your residents on organic waste separation and management, resulting in more cost for strata communities and more work for our councils and managers. For more information on the new organics rules contact the Recycling Council of BC hotline: 604-RECYCLE, 604-732-9253 or www.metrovancouver.org.

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