

# Recycling in Yukon

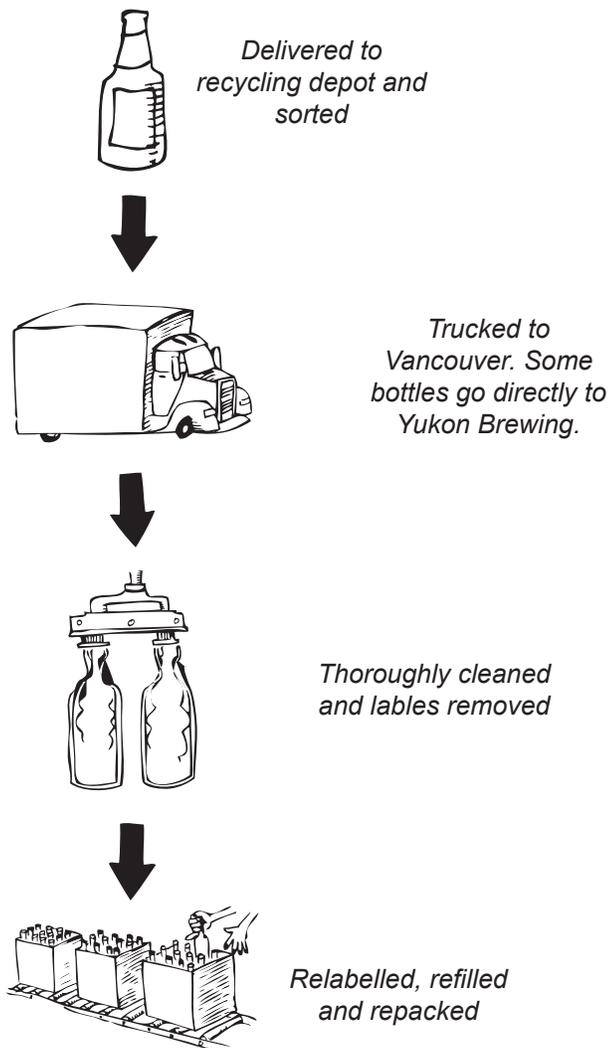
# Glass

Glass is made out of silica sand, soda ash and limestone, and has many diverse uses. It can be shaped into containers to protect food and beverages, or it can be made into fibreglass or windows. It is transparent, inert and non-toxic. Glass comes in four colours: flint (clear), amber (brown), green and light blue. Glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled many times without changing its composition or quality.

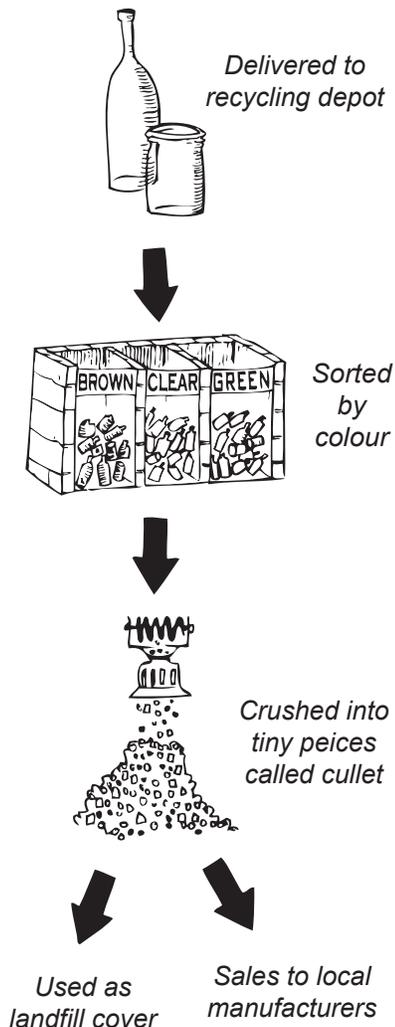
## WHERE CAN YOU RECYCLE GLASS?

Different types of glass are recycled through different programs in the Yukon. Glass beer bottles are recycled when returned for deposit refund. Other glass containers (e.g. wine bottles, jars) are accepted and crushed down to be used as clean fill or road sand at local landfills.

### Beer bottles



### Wine bottles and glass containers



# ZERO WASTE

STARTS NOW

## QUICK FACTS

1 recycled glass container saves enough energy to light a 100 watt bulb for four hours.

32% of a glass container is post-consumer recycled glass. The technology exists to use up to 85% recycled glass!

Since 1980 the average weight of a glass container has been reduced by 10%.

1 million years is how long glass takes to break down naturally.

8 – 12 weeks is how long it takes for a glass container to be recycled and returned to the store shelf.

82% of glass containers consumed in Canada every year are reused or recycled.

1 beer bottle is refilled an average of 15 times.

## WHERE DO WE FIND GLASS CONTAINERS?



Glass containers are used for all types of food and beverages. When glass is shaped into jars or bottles, it will keep food preserved. Different colours of glass have different qualities. For example, brown glass absorbs ultraviolet rays and thus protects pharmaceutical products and extends the life of beer.

## WHERE IS GLASS PROCESSED?

Glass is collected and taken to recycling processing facilities. Containers such as beer bottles are either sent to local brewers who clean and refill the bottles, or packaged and shipped to B.C. facilities for cleaning and refilling. Other glass is broken or crushed and either reused by some businesses for crafts and landscaping or sent to local landfills as clean fill and road material.

## WHAT GLASS CAN BE RECYCLED?

Different types of glass can be recycled, but only container glass can be turned into furnace-ready cullet. All types of glass have different chemical make-ups that alter their capability to be recycled. The success of glass recycling depends on good quality glass coming back for processing – free from contamination.

## WHAT CONTAMINATES GLASS?

Contamination alters the chemistry of the glass recycling process. Even the smallest amount of contamination will weaken the final product. Contaminants include:

- ceramics (dinner plates, coffee mugs)
- window glass & mirrors
- pyrex glass
- wired glass
- crystal & drinking glasses
- light bulbs or tubes.



As glass is not re-processed in the Yukon, none of the above contaminates our glass stream and can be put in with other glass.

## WHAT ARE THE MARKETS?

The main markets for cullet are manufacturers of recycled glass containers. Most of the glass that is recycled is turned into new bottles or jars.

There are other uses for glass. Glass is an excellent source of aggregate fill for construction sites or roads, because it is relatively inexpensive, provides good drainage capacity and is inert. In the Yukon, it is used as landfill cover.

Glass can also be used to make fibreglass or used as a sand blasting material.

# ZEROWASTE STARTS NOW

## REDUCE

Look for narrow neck bottles when shopping. The shape of the neck can reduce the amount of packaging used in a bottle by as much as 33%. The container is of the same quality as wider neck varieties, but less material is used.

## REUSE

Reuse jars for storage. Keep nails, elastics, jams or candy in jars collected from your kitchen. Baby food jars are terrific for threads, buttons and needles.

Use glass containers for candle holders. Take a jam jar and decorate it with acrylic paint, and use a tea light candle for a stained glass look.

## RECYCLE



Return glass beverage containers for recycling. Leave labels on. Rinse containers and remove lids and caps.

## RETURN

Consumers pay a deposit on all glass beverage containers in Yukon that do not contain milk. Shoppers should return bottles to a local depot for a refund.

## RECYCLING QUESTIONS?

- Call us! • Raven Recycling (667-7269)  
• P&M Recycling (667-4338)  
• Blue Bin Society (633-2583)