



BEVERAGE CONTAINER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Beverage Container Collection Services

What You Need to Know

Beverage containers are one of the most frequently recycled products in Alberta. With 98% of Albertans returning them to over 200 depots throughout Alberta or recycling them through other means like municipal blue bag programs, our return rate remains high at around 85%.

Depots provide refunds for the deposits paid by the consumer when they purchase beverages. Those refunds, along with the environmental benefits of recycling, are a strong incentive for Albertans to return beverage containers to their local depot.

Unfortunately, the financial incentive has led to some forms of fraudulent collection services that all Albertans should be aware of and report. [Click here](#) for an example of a fraudulent collection service claiming to be from the City of Edmonton.

Depots are regulated by the Beverage Container Management Board and must comply with numerous standards and policies set by the Board to ensure the safe and accurate return of beverage containers. It is important to know that collection services outside of our depot network, whether they are legitimate or fraudulent, are not regulated by the BCMB.

Examples of legitimate collection services outside the regulatory authority of the BCMB could be a bottle drive for a charitable organization or a school, or a blue bag program run by a municipality. Most beverage containers (with the exception of glass) that are recycled through blue bag programs run by municipalities are sorted from the other materials received and returned to a depot by the municipality for recycling and a refund of the deposit. Please be sure to verify legitimacy before donating your beverage containers or retaining the services of a collection service.

The best way to prevent fraudulent collection services and to put a bit of money in your pocket, is to simply return your empty beverage containers to an Alberta depot for a refund. [Click here](#) to find your nearest Depot.

If you suspect or become aware of a fraudulent beverage container collection service, please contact the BCMB at:

780-424-3193

Toll Free: 1-888-424-7671

Email: info@bcmb.ab.ca