

# RECYCLING YOUR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN ALBERTA



BEVERAGE CONTAINER MANAGEMENT BOARD



# BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING BY THE NUMBERS



**192,000+**

beverage containers registered  
for sale in Alberta



Almost **2.5 billion**

beverage products sold  
in Alberta every year



**2 billion+**

beverage containers returned  
annually to depots for a refund  
and recycling



**= 450**

for every Albertan



**= almost 90 million kg**

of waste diverted from landfills



Collection rate of

**82.2%**



**220+**

depots in Alberta

See the BCMB's [Annual Report](#) for the most  
recent collection rates and other statistics.



## Before You Visit a Depot

- Confirm hours of operation at your local [depot](#).
- Empty and rinse containers, especially milk containers.
- Leave tabs, labels, and lids on containers.
- If you pre-count your containers, it can help to make the process faster as depots confirm the count.
- Call ahead if you have a large volume of containers to return.

## What Your Depot Can Do for You

- Commercial pickups for businesses that have a large volume of beverage containers (check with your local depot to see if they or a charitable partner offer a commercial pickup service).
- Help set up a donation program or bottle drive.
- May be able to provide recycling bins, door knockers, and additional support for bottle drives and other collection events.

## Out-of-Province and Unregistered Containers

All depots are prohibited from accepting or providing a refund for:

- Beverage containers purchased outside of Alberta.
- Beverage containers not registered in Alberta.

Fines of up to \$50,000 (for an individual) or \$500,000 (for a corporation) can be issued for accepting or providing refunds for these containers.



## Non-Refundable Containers

Some containers look similar to refundable beverage containers but are NOT regulated under the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation and therefore, not part of the deposit refund program. This means a depot cannot pay a refund for them. This includes, but is not limited to, containers for products like soup, broth, cooking oil, yogurt, some alcoholic shots, mini creamers, and concentrates.

### Examples of ineligible containers



soup



broth



cooking oil



yogurt



canned fruit



liquid eggs



creamer



flavoured syrup  
cocktail mix



juice  
concentrate





# What happens to recycled containers?

Recycled beverage containers are used in the manufacture of many commercially useful products:

## Aluminum Cans

- new aluminum cans



## Refillable Glass Beer Containers

- can be reused up to 15 times



## Plastic Containers

- new plastic containers or plastic products



## Polycoat, Juice and Milk Cartons

- paper pulp and cardboard



## Glass Containers

- fibreglass insulation



## Bi-Metal Containers

- scrap metal for construction rebar



# RETURN THESE CONTAINERS FOR A REFUND

**25¢**

**= over  
1 litre**



Unsure if a container can be returned for a refund and recycled? Search for it in our beverage container registration database, which can be found in our beverage container registration portal by scanning the container bar code using the Alberta Depot app or under the *Selling a Beverage in Alberta* tab at [www.bcmb.ab.ca](http://www.bcmb.ab.ca).

\* Both the cardboard container and bladder must be returned for a bag-in-a-box container to be eligible for a refund.

# RETURN THESE CONTAINERS FOR A REFUND

**10¢**  
= 1 litre  
& under



# THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT!

## Depot Standards

The BCMB regulates all depots in Alberta. Depots have rules they must follow when collecting beverage containers and that includes providing accurate refunds. Regular audits and compliance programs ensure depots are meeting operating standards set by the BCMB. If you have a concern about a depot or the service provided, please visit our [feedback page](#).



## Applaud a Depot

We would love to hear about the amazing service you experience at your local depot.

Share your story and be entered into a draw for some great prizes. Visit [applaudadepot.ca](http://applaudadepot.ca) to submit an 'applaud'.

## Find a Depot

Visit the Alberta Depot website for answers to your [beverage container recycling questions](#) or to [find a depot](#) near you.

## Contact Information

Still have questions? Contact the Beverage Container Management Board:

Email: [info@bcmb.ab.ca](mailto:info@bcmb.ab.ca)

Phone: 1-888-424-7671

[www.bcmb.ab.ca](http://www.bcmb.ab.ca)



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It's Worth It