



Millions of E-commerce Parcels and Holiday Packages in Need of Recycling

London Drugs' Packaging Recycling Amnesty 2019 aims to divert packaging waste from city landfills

Bring recyclable packaging to any London Drugs for responsible recycling before January 31

January 9, 2019, RICHMOND, B.C. – Millions of e-commerce parcels and holiday packages are in need of recycling after the holidays and London Drugs is urging customers to help divert this packaging waste from city landfills by dropping it off at any location before January 31st.

In recent years, the rise of online shopping has exponentially increased the amount of packaging waste produced over the holiday shopping season. Past holiday seasons, for example, [Canada Post delivered a record 62 million parcels. \(1\)](#) With those parcels comes millions pounds of cardboard, over-wrap, bubble wrap and Styrofoam that often end up in landfills. To help reduce the waste, London Drugs has announced '[Packaging Recycling Amnesty 2019](#)' as a way to help customers responsibly recycle their recyclable packaging – no matter where the product was purchased from.

“London Drugs customers can already get their packaging recycled for free. This month we’re offering Package Recycling Amnesty to all. Bring it to any store, no matter where the product was purchased, so it can be recycled responsibly,” says Maury McCausland, London Drugs Retail Operations Sustainability Specialist.

London Drugs has been offering free 'Bring Back the Pack' packaging recycling services for London Drugs purchases since 2008. Last year, the chain achieved an impressive overall 93.9 per cent waste diversion rate, with more than 12.5 million pounds of waste diverted from city landfills across Western Canada.

“Many our locations have a recycling centre right near the front of the store. For stores without a centre, or if you’re just not sure what goes where, just talk to customer service and they’ll help you take care of it,” says McCausland.

According to some studies, [packaging makes up about 30% of household waste. \(2\)](#) But much of that can now be responsibly recycled and diverted from landfills, including cardboard, hard plastics, soft plastics, Styrofoam and plastic over-wrap.

In BC stores, customers can also bring in [Other Flexible Packaging \(3\)](#). Through a pilot program with RecycleBC, London Drugs is now accepting a wide variety of flexible plastics including; stand up and zipper lock pouches, crinkly wrappers and bags, (Including chip bags, bar and candy wrappers), flexible packaging with plastic seal, woven net and plastic bags, and non-food protective packaging. These materials are being used to research the development of new recycling processes and generate engineered fuel.

“This kind of waste really adds up. With Package Recycling Amnesty we’re making a commitment to help address it,” says McCausland.

London Drugs also offers in-store recycling for all of the items listed below:

- Electrical and Electronic goods (TVs, VCRs, computers, printers etc.)
- Small Appliances
- Styrofoam, plastic and cardboard packaging from our products
- Cell phones, PDAs and rechargeable batteries
- Alkaline Batteries
- Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL’s) and fluorescent lights up to 4-ft
- Disposable cameras
- Ink jet cartridges
- Laser cartridges
- Metal film canisters
- Plastic bags
- Insurance plastic folders

For more information about London Drugs’ sustainability initiatives or more information about what can be recycled at stores, visit greendeal.ca.

ABOUT LONDON DRUGS

Founded in 1945, B.C.-based [London Drugs](http://www.londondrugs.com) has 81 stores in more than 35 major markets throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba including its online store www.londondrugs.com. London Drugs offers consumers a range of products from digital cameras and cosmetics to computers and televisions. Renowned for its creative approach to retailing, the company employs more than 7,500 people with pharmacy and health care services being the heart of its business. Committed to innovation and superior customer service, London Drugs has established itself as a reputable and caring company and continues to position itself for future growth and development. For more information, visit www.LondonDrugs.com.

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(1) https://www.canadapost.ca/assets/pdf/aboutus/financialreports/2017_ar_complete_en.pdf

(2) <https://www.livescience.com/50581-packaging-no-longer-the-nightmare-some-claim.html>

(3) <https://greendeal.ca/keeping-other-flexible-plastic-packaging-out-of-landfill-in-bc-%e2%80%a85-things-you-need-to-know>