

## WHAT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS SHOULD I SAVE?



Ready-to-drink beverage containers of all materials (plastic, glass bottles, drink boxes, cans and cartons) can be returned to an Encorp Return-It Depot for deposit refund and recycling. Whether it's water or juice, sports drink or soft drink, wine or spirit, if it was sold in BC it can be returned.

What are empty drink containers worth? The deposit paid, of course!

- **5¢** for non-alcohol containers up to and including 1 litre.
- **10¢** for wine, spirits, non-refillable beer, cider and cooler containers up to and including 1 litre.
- **20¢** for all containers over 1 litre.

Non-refillable alcohol bottles are recycled after their first use, unlike standard domestic beer bottles.

A detailed explanation of the containers that can be returned for refund is on the tear-off chart included in this brochure.

There is one legislated exception: containers for milk and milk substitutes of all sizes and types are not in the deposit system. However, most Return-It Depots accept them and ensure they are recycled responsibly.

## WHERE DO I TAKE THEM TO CASH IN?

To any Encorp Return-It Depot in your area. Simply visit [www.encorp.ca/locations](http://www.encorp.ca/locations). You'll be able to find the location nearest you, the hours of operation and a map to help you get there. As an alternative, you may want to hold onto your containers for community fundraising groups that come knocking.

## WHERE ENCORP COMES IN

Encorp Pacific (Canada) develops and administers the Return-It program. Encorp refunds deposit monies to consumers at Return-It Depots and some retailers. Encorp also looks after collecting and sorting the empty beverage containers, and transporting and selling them so they can be recycled into a variety of products. The system is efficient and effective and goes a long way towards keeping litter off the streets and recyclable containers out of landfills.

## IT'S NOT FREE BUT IT'S PRICELESS

Return-It is not paid for by tax dollars, nor is it funded by government. Because the deposit paid on a drink container is fully refunded when you return it, the recycling of the containers needs to be funded in other ways. Part of the cost of managing the Return-It program is included in the price you pay for a beverage. Some of the funding also comes from selling the recyclable material to companies – many right here in BC – who turn them back into a variety of useful products.

Unredeemed deposits also help to fund the system, but when all of these sources of revenue still can't cover the cost of recycling, a small fee is charged.

The benefits of recycling are numerous and enjoyed by all of us. Your efforts to protect the environment have been a great success. For more information on the recycling fee, visit [www.encorp.ca/recyclingfee](http://www.encorp.ca/recyclingfee)

## THE FACT IS, IT'S WORTH IT

By recycling your beverage containers, you save enough energy to power 41,000 BC homes for a year. You also take the equivalent of 27,000 cars off BC's roads for one year. As if that were not enough, you also contribute to the reduction of about 126 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent being released into the atmosphere.

Over 1 billion containers are kept out of BC landfills every year but, in actual fact, there's always room for improvement. Individuals are asked to remain conscientious and continue their ongoing efforts to recycle their beverage containers. Schools and community groups are encouraged to keep holding regular bottle drives. Every container counts.

For more information and to find the nearest Return-It Depot location, call us toll free, or visit [www.encorp.ca](http://www.encorp.ca).



**YOU'VE SAVED ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER 41,000 HOMES. YOU'VE TAKEN THE EQUIVALENT OF 27,000 CARS OFF BC ROADS FOR A YEAR. YOU'VE ALSO HELPED REDUCE ABOUT 126,000 TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENT BEING RELEASED INTO OUR ATMOSPHERE.**

**THANKS FOR RECYCLING.**



[return-it.ca](http://return-it.ca) | 1-800-330-9767

## EVERY CONTAINER COUNTS

Every container you return to an Encorp Return-It Depot is one more container kept out of BC's landfills. Last year over 1 billion containers were recycled into new cans, plastic bottles and pails, fibreglass insulation, roadbed, cardboard boxes, toilet paper and other useful goods. When you return your containers, you make a valuable contribution to the environment. In most cases, less energy is used when the materials in beverage containers are recycled rather than newly manufactured. And over 1,000 tonnes of paper could be saved every year. Return-It. It's worth it.

## THE PROOF IS IN THE NUMBERS

Below are the recovery rates for each container type in 2008:



**81.5%** of all aluminum cans sold were recycled  
That equals: **379,018,112 cans**



**75.7%** of all plastic bottles sold were recycled  
That equals: **360,038,020 bottles**



**70.9%** of all non-alcohol glass bottles sold were recycled  
That equals: **36,339,291 bottles**



**59.6%** of all bi-metal containers sold were recycled  
That equals: **3,983,563 cans**



**35.4%** of all pouches and polycups sold were recycled  
That equals: **5,505,794 pouches**



**61.1%** of all gable top containers were recycled  
That equals: **9,989,605 gable tops**



**54.4%** of all drink boxes sold were recycled  
That equals: **69,419,940 drink boxes**

**60,447 metric tonnes of alcohol containers, equaling 199,769,797 were recycled.**

To sum up, over 1 billion containers weighing 86.8 thousand metric tonnes are not in landfills or littering our neighbourhoods. Return-It truly is worth it.



## GIVING CONTAINERS NEW LIFE

What happens to the containers? You'll be happy to know that every container you return is recycled and put to good use again.



**ALUMINUM CANS** are baled, melted and back on the shelf again as cans within 6 weeks. This saves a lot of raw material, plus it takes 95% less energy to manufacture a can from recycled aluminum than it does to make it from brand new material.



**PLASTIC BOTTLES** are power-washed, then shredded and power-washed again. From there, the shredded material is sold to companies who pull, stretch and meld the shreds into fibre for new bottles and buckets. Recycling plastics uses about 1/3 less energy than manufacturing new plastic.



**GLASS** is ground down into small pieces called "cullet" and used in the manufacturing of a variety of things such as fibreglass insulation, sandblasting material and even sand for golf-course sandtraps. Ground glass can also be added to asphalt in the making of new roads.



**BI-METAL CANS** (usually made of steel) are baled and melted down into scrap metal. The scrap can be made into hundreds of products such as rebar, wire fencing and car parts. Steel is one of the most recycled materials in the world. Steel is made from the mining of iron ore, so using recycled steel means that less mining is required. This reduces the potential damage to habitats.



**DRINK BOXES AND CARTONS (POLYCOATED CONTAINERS)** are hydra-pulped to separate the paper, plastic and foil. The paper is turned into pulp and put to use again in paper products and as cardboard boxes. Thousands of tonnes of paper pulp are recovered in this process. For every ton of paper pulp recycled, approximately 17 trees are saved.



Tear off and save this handy chart

### READY TO DRINK BEVERAGE CONTAINERS INCLUDED IN THE RETURN-IT SYSTEM.

5¢ DEPOSIT REFUND FOR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1 LITRE	10¢ DEPOSIT REFUND FOR ALCOHOL CONTAINERS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1 LITRE	20¢ DEPOSIT REFUND FOR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS OVER 1 LITRE	
	<b>POLYCOAT CONTAINERS</b>	Aseptic drink boxes and coated "gable top" drink cartons.	CAP OFF
	<b>BAG-IN-A-BOX AND POUCHES</b>	Large "bags" of wine in a cardboard carton, usually with a spigot for in-fridge use. Both the bag and the box must be returned.	LEAVE BAG IN BOX
	<b>GLASS BOTTLES</b>	The everyday glass juice and beverage bottles as well as wine, spirits, imported beer, and coolers. Tinted and clear.	CAP OFF, LABEL ON
	<b>OTHER PLASTIC JUGS, CUPS AND BOTTLES</b>	Clear or tinted, opaque plastic, and vinyl containers.	CAP OFF, LABEL ON
	<b>PLASTIC BOTTLES</b>	The familiar plastic soft drink and water bottles including coolers and some spirits. Containers may be clear or coloured.	CAP OFF, LABEL ON
	<b>METAL CANS</b>	Any metal container other than aluminum ranging from small single serve tins to large tomato and apple juice cans.	LABEL ON
	<b>ALUMINUM CANS</b>	The most commonly used individual serving container - please leave the pull-tabs on.	LEAVE TAB ON

Excluded by legislation: milk and milk substitute containers of all types and sizes do not carry a refundable deposit.