



# Spoiled Food Waste and Fridge/Freezer Collection

The RDCK will be offering a free collection service for spoiled food and damaged refrigeration units for residents in Electoral Area H. More details will be provided from the RDCK later today, or check [www.rdck.ca/eocinfo](http://www.rdck.ca/eocinfo).

After a prolonged power outage, many residents will be returning from the Evacuation Order to fridges and freezers full of spoiled food. Some homeowners may also find that their fridges and freezers have stopped working, due to blown compressors as a result of power surges when power returns.

For residents in need of disposal support for these materials, the RDCK has arranged for free curbside pickup of damaged fridges and freezers and fridge and freezer contents that spoiled as a result of the power outage.

**NOTE:** while the RDCK is providing this pick-up service for residents, the RDCK will not be providing any replacement services or funding for new refrigerators or freezers. It is entirely the responsibility of the residents to determine if the replacement of refrigerators or freezers, their contents and other damaged items are covered through their home insurance policy.

## FOOD MUST FIRST BE REMOVED FROM REFRIGERATION UNITS PRIOR TO PICKUP

Please follow the instructions below to minimize wildlife attraction and keep everyone safe.

### Removing Food and Preparing your fridge or freezer

- **Protective clothing:** Rotting food will likely contain pathogens that, absorbed, can make you sick. Ensure you are wearing latex gloves, a mask, and coveralls (or old clothing)
- **Ventilation:** It's a good to keep windows open and have some fans running to manage odours and ensure that you have clean air while working
- **Disinfection:** A mixture of hot, clean water and baking soda will work to neutralize odors. In some cases, bleach and water may be required.
- **Food Removal:** Double-bag up spoiled food in heavy duty contractor bags. This will reduce the risk of leaching liquids at every stage. See details below for curbside pickup of Bagged food waste.
- **Working Appliances:** Make sure that the appliance is working well before you put food back into it. Take photos of the spoiled food, as you may be able to claim these costs with your insurance group.
- **Damaged Refrigerators and Freezers:** Check with your insurer – you may be eligible for replacement costs. See details below for curbside pickup of damaged refrigerating units.

### Spoiled Food and Ruined Appliances Pickup

All refrigerators and freezers must have all contents removed prior to pickup. Please package food waste as described above, in to sturdy heavy-duty garbage bags (double-bagged) and properly tied off. The bagged food waste should be placed at the end of your driveway for easy pickup. **In order to minimize wildlife attraction, please do not put your bagged food waste out early.**

Damaged Refrigerating Units from households and spoiled food waste will be picked up for disposal, free of charge. **Ensure your appliances and spoiled food waste is visible, on your driveway, and not on Highway 6.** Service Providers will do their best to meet the schedules posted, and will do several passes up and down the street at the collection times listed above.