

4. Glass Processors

Glass processors have been around for a long time. Consumers Glass has always relied on them as a source of cullet although at one time Consumers Glass purchased directly from Ontario municipalities for its Kipling Avenue plant in Toronto.

However, Consumers Glass does not buy recycled container glass from municipalities anymore. They buy cullet from glass processors. Glass processors purchase recycled container glass from the various industrial and municipal markets, process it to meet the specifications of the glass container furnace, and sell it to Consumers Glass. Glass processors also serve other end markets that are involved in the production of fibreglass, abrasives, paint and roads.

There are four major glass processors in Canada that supply Consumers Glass. www.glassworks.org has updated a [list](#) of these companies, their key contacts and locations to help the recycling community find an industrial market for their container glass material.

Each of these companies has their specification standards for the material they accept as they supply a number of customers. The standards are similar between processors. The specifications set by the different purchasers of cullet may vary according to purpose. For example, while ceramic contamination is the most critical concern for the glass container industry, metals are the critical concern for the fibreglass industry. In general the more pristine the material offered for sale, the broader the potential market acceptance.

Those municipalities interested in selling their recycled container glass to one of the major processors in a competitive market situation need to understand the top ten conditions under which the glass processors buy recycled container glass.

Condition 1: Quality - the quality of the material must meet or exceed the specification standards set by the processor.



Condition 2 through to 10: Quality - the quality of the material must meet or exceed the specification standards set by the processor.

Other information that influences the glass processors purchasing decision includes the tonnages available. When the market for a colour or mix of colours is limited, the records that the glass processor has kept on the historical performance of those municipalities that have provided recycled container glass in the past will be considered in determining whose glass they will purchase.



Glass processors take material from municipal recycling programmes and process it into a raw material. Consumers Glass uses this raw material, cullet, to make glass bottle and jars that contain the food or beverage product that you buy. Other markets that glass processors supply have specifications that have to be met or exceeded to use recyclable glass containers as a raw material such as the fibreglass industry. Quality counts.



The glass container industry can recycle more:

- flint or clear glass bottles and containers
- amber glass bottles and jars

