



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

August 16, 2025

Emergency period waste disposal schedule and safe disposal or use of frozen food during power outage

During this period of prolonged power outage, there are some residents who will lose perishable foods stored in fridges and freezers. The following notice includes:

- An updated schedule for waste pick-up effective immediately.
- Tips for how to use or safely dispose of spoiled refrigerated or frozen foods.
- A reminder regarding home insurance policies.

Emergency Period Waste Disposal Schedule:

Waste collection will occur weekly on the East Side, following the usual schedule, with additional pickups scheduled as necessary. We have supplied **four more waste bins** on the West Side, which will be **emptied twice a week** for the duration of the power outage.

Safe Disposal or Use of Frozen Food During Power Outage

If your freezer has been without power for an extended period, here are steps you can take to safely handle the food:

Step 1: Assess the Food

- Check for signs of spoilage: If the food still feels cold or has ice crystals, it may be safe to cook.
- If the food smells off and/or has changed color or texture, it's best to dispose of it.

Step 2: Use What You Can

- Cook and consume any food that is still safe.
- **Do not use outdoor fuel-burning cooking equipment indoors**, even with your windows and doors open, as this can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Step 3: Donate and Share Usable Food

- Share with others: If you're unable to cook it yourself, consider offering it to someone who can. This helps reduce waste and supports the community.

Step 4: Dispose of Spoiled Food Properly

- Do not leave spoiled food in your freezer—this can lead to odor and contamination of unspoiled food.
- Dispose of spoiled meat and other organic waste as you typically would.
- Wrap and bag any garbage securely to prevent animals from accessing it.
- Ensure all waste is placed in the appropriate bins for pickup or drop-off.

Home Insurance:

Please note that some home insurance policies have a provision and coverage for spoiled foods from prolonged power outage. Consider reviewing your policy or contacting your insurance broker to see if you have coverage.

For more information, contact eocinfo@acrd.bc.ca