

6 Utilities

The BIVC provides weekly trash pickup during the summer season, rubbish and metal pickup once or twice a season, and tested BIVC-owned wells for those who do not have their own supply of water. Other services and utilities are available for a fee.

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station is located on the north end of the island near the water next to the golf course. Rubbish and scrap metal are staged there in containers before being taken off-island. The Transfer Station is secured and does not have fixed hours. It is not for general public use. Contact the Superintendent for access or for rubbish and metal pickup times.



Propane and Gas

Delivery of tanks of propane and gas, and sales and maintenance of propane and gas appliances, are provided by private contractor. See Chapter 13 for more information.

Trash

Household trash is usually picked up on every Sunday (Monday on holiday weekends) that the *Lilly B.* is running. Plan to have your bagged trash (use heavy black bags only) outside next to the road by 1:00 pm on pickup days. The island truck picks up the bags and transfers them to large rolling trash cans, which are then put on a special trash-only run of the *Lilly B.* on Tuesday mornings, rolled off on the mainland, and transferred to a private trash hauler. The cans are returned to the island for the next pickup.

This system works well, but it is easy for the system to become overloaded, which happens when every cottage puts out more than two or three bags a week. To reduce your trash volume, you can do the following:

1. Remove large packaging and Styrofoam from items before you bring them to the island, or plan to remove these items from the island yourself.
2. Burn paper trash and compost garbage in a composting bin.
3. Flatten or nest tin cans. Compact everything else as much as you can. Keeping volume down is more important than weight.
4. Separate recyclable cans and bottles from trash, put them in clear or white bags (not boxes), and place them by the roadside along with your trash. For trash, use heavy-duty dark bags.
5. Hold bulky items, such as lawn chairs, appliances, bikes, etc. for rubbish and metal pickup, or you can deliver them to the Transfer Station by arrangement with the Superintendent.
6. Do not put bagged yard waste out as trash.

Rubbish and Metals

Rubbish (large items) and metals are usually picked up once or twice per season. The Superintendent will announce when the pickups will occur. Leave the items at the road by your cottage only during the pickup period.

Brush

There is no brush pick up. Owners are responsible for disposing of brush from their own properties. Brush cannot be put on the shore. Arrange for chipping and/or pickup by contacting a private contractor; stump grinding services are also available by private contractor (see Chapter 13). There is some limited disposal capability for large logs; contact the Superintendent.

Recycling

One way to recycle is to separate bottles and cans from other trash to be handled by volunteers on trash pickup day.

Compost your garbage as much as possible. Be sure to use a bin or container that is animal-proof.

A “silver bullet” recycling bin is located in the parking lot of the French School of Maine in South Freeport. Items do not need to be sorted. The following are acceptable items for the “silver bullet:”

- Paper products, including cardboard (not corrugated), newspaper, boxes, magazines and catalogs, junk mail, phone books, gift wrap, file folders, shopping bags, milk and juice cartons.
- Plastic (including all plastics labeled #1 through 7), metal, glass, foil, cans, pots and pans, empty aerosol cans, empty bottles and jars, and any color glass.

The following items are not acceptable: light bulbs, hypodermic needles, sharp objects, vinyl siding, bubble wrap, food, toys, Styrofoam packaging and peanuts, food bags, diapers, potato chip bags, or trash.

By tradition, anything left by the roadside on the island is “up for grabs” by other islanders and is one additional way to recycle. If items are not taken after several days, you should discard them by other methods.

Water and Wells

Many islanders have their own wells. For those who do not, several BIVC-owned wells are located throughout the island. These wells are tested for bacteria and contaminants several times during the summer by the Water Commissioner, and a report is posted at the Store.

BIVC-owned wells are located:

- Next to the Store
- Across from the Ewing Ice House/Pond
- At the Community House

To conform to state regulations, these wells can only be used on certain days. The well schedule is posted at the Store and other locations, and is included as an insert in the back pocket of this guide. See the map in Appendix A for well locations.

Street Lights

A few public street lights are scattered between the Steamer Dock and the Public Dock. These are solar powered and automatically come on at dusk.

Sewage and Septic

People on Bustins either use outhouses, composting toilets, or septic systems with flush toilets. Cleaning of outhouses is provided by private contractor (see Chapter 13). The island provides for disposal of dry waste from outhouses and composting toilets. Contact the Superintendent to arrange access to the “Honey Wagon,” where waste is accumulated for transfer off the island.

Owners of septic systems are responsible for making their own arrangements for pumping and disposal.

Firewood and Woodlots

A number of people heat their cottages with fireplaces and wood stoves. Many cottage owners own woodlots in the middle of the island. For those who do not, firewood may be available from private contractors (see Chapter 13).

