



Organics FAQ's

Why should I participate in the program?

Residents will find using their green cart an easy way to send much less garbage to the landfill, turn food waste into a renewable resource and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Food waste collection enhances home composting and complements recycling, providing a service that enables households to divert 90 per cent of their waste for processing into new products.

By using their Green Organics Cart to collect and put out food waste at the curbside, households will:

- Reduce the Municipality's dependence on landfill disposal, help ensure the landfill can keep working for residents for years to come;
- Take action on climate change by keeping methane-causing organic waste out of the landfill;

Be a part of a local, sustainable solution to waste management. A landfill has a limited lifespan, while a composting facility can continue to process our food and other organic waste indefinitely and create finished compost - a beneficial, renewable resource.

What can I use to line my organics cart?

100% **compostable** bin liners, paper towel or newspaper can all be used to line your organics cart. **Do not use biodegradable bags**, plastic bags and plastic liners as they do not degrade when they are put through the composting process. If you are unsure look for these certifications when you are purchasing organic bags:



COMPOSTABLE

Biodegradable Products Institute | US COMPOSTING COUNCIL



Why are my organics and garbage picked up by the same truck?

Garbage and organics are collected by a split packer truck. Although it may appear that these items are being mixed together after you spent time separating them, the materials are completely separated and do not get mixed with each other. Split packer vehicles collect both refuse and organics in the same truck, but in different compartments. Garbage and organics are kept separate, compressed and emptied at different locations. These trucks are split this way to make the collection more efficient instead of having one designated truck for each material type.



What about Backyard Composting?

We encourage residents to compost in their backyard, but please do so in a manner that limits rodent/ pest activity. Backyard composting can provide your household with a nutrient rich soil source for your garden. Our curbside collection program for organics accepts some additional kitchen waste items that is not suitable for backyard composting (eg. meat and bones).

Acceptable Organics

Acceptable Items

- Coffee grounds, filters & tea bags
- Pizza boxes
- Cooked food & leftovers
- Meat & fish scraps/bones
- Egg shells
- Dairy & butter
- Fruit & vegetables
- Nuts & shells
- Bread & cereal
- Used paper plates & cups
- Napkins and tissues
- Other soiled paper products (*without plastic coatings*)
- *Yard waste, leaves, grass clippings*
- *Short branches and prunings*

Do Not Include

- Lumber or other wood products
- Plastic & plastic lined paper products
- Pet waste & litter
- Styrofoam
- Sanitary products
- Soiled diapers & contaminated cotton balls
- Rocks, soil or sod
- Biodegradeable bags - *use compostable liners only*

Look for these logos !



Tips to Reduce Odours

- Empty your kitchen catcher frequently; wash or rinse containers as needed.
- Don't leave food waste exposed; keep container lids tightly closed.
- Line the bottom of your containers with newspaper or paper towel to absorb moisture.
- Freeze meat, fish, poultry or bones and put them in your green cart on your collection day.
- Sprinkle a small amount of baking soda, garden lime or vinegar in your containers.
- Store your green cart in a secure, cool, ventilated location.
- Put your green cart out for collection every week even if it is not full.