



# Going Green in North York

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## NORTH YORK, YOU SURE LOOK GOOD IN GREEN...

### Congratulations North York residents!

Judging by the approximately 90 per cent participation rate, the Green Bin Program is becoming a daily part of your lives. Every time you separate your organic materials, such as food waste and soiled paper, you're reducing the amount of material headed for landfill.

Right now, Toronto trucks its garbage to Michigan. To do this, we must meet strict policies and procedures governing landfill operations. Our ultimate goal, however, is to clean up after ourselves, and eliminate the need for landfill as much as possible. It's an ambitious plan, but it's a step in the right direction...away from Michigan.

Before the Green Bin Program, more than 30 per cent of the garbage going to landfill was organic material. The Green Bin Program diverts organic material away from landfill and turns it into useful compost instead. With the Green Bin Program now city-wide, approximately 100,000 tonnes of organic waste will be diverted from landfill annually (resulting in 2,750 fewer trucks to Michigan each year).

Thank you for your good work and for helping to make the Green Bin Program the largest and most progressive waste diversion program in North America.



# RECYCLING BOXES MIX IT UP...

Blue and grey box recyclables can be mixed together in one box! Toronto has facilities equipped with technology to separate and process recyclables. This means you can mix containers (e.g. bottles and cans) and paper products together.

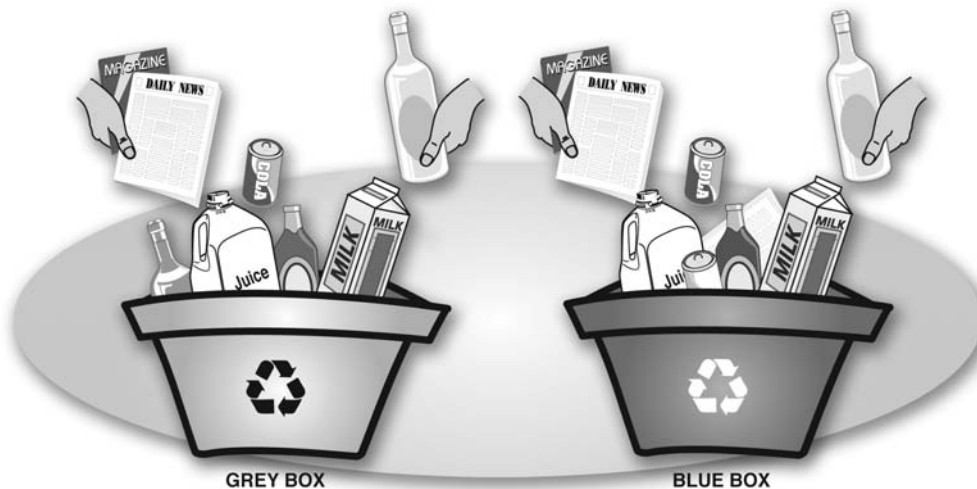
So, you can continue recycling and separate the way you always did, or you can mix blue and grey box recyclables in whichever box is handy. Keep in mind that if one box is full, you can simply use the other for overflow. Whatever you do, just remember to recycle!

Go ahead and mix those recyclables. But remember... put your organic waste in the green bin. It's on its own.

## PROBLEMS WITH YOUR BIN?

In the unlikely event your green bin cracks or breaks, the City will exchange it (same goes for your blue box). You will need to bring your broken bin with you.

For more information, call 416-338-2010 or visit [www.toronto.ca/recycle](http://www.toronto.ca/recycle).



## Too Much Plastic = Processing Problems



It's okay to line either your green bin or kitchen container with a plastic bag, but it's not okay to include your plastic baggies, bread bags, and other plastic packaging in the green bin. Too much plastic causes serious quality problems at the processing facility.



Please remove your organic materials from the plastic packaging before throwing them into the bin (e.g. take the sandwich out of the bag). The mechanisms at our organics processing facility are designed to remove the plastic bags you use to line your containers—but not plastic packaging.

**BOTTOM LINE:** plastic is not good for producing clean, rich compost.

# What to put (and not put) in your green bin



## Into the green bin...

- Fruits, vegetable scraps
- Meat, shellfish, fish products
- Pasta, bread, cereal
- Dairy products, egg shells
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Soiled paper towels, tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging: fast food paper packaging, ice cream boxes, muffin papers, flour and sugar bags
- Paper coffee cups (no lids), paper plates
- Candies, cookies, cake
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- Household plants, including soil
- Diapers, sanitary products
- Animal waste, bedding (e.g. from bird/hamster cages)
- Kitty litter
- Pet food

## Not

### into the green bin...

These items do not break down and, therefore, cannot be turned into compost.

- Plastic wrap, baggies, sandwich bags
- Plastic items such as food containers (e.g. yogurt or margarine tubs), cutlery
- Plastic milk bags
- Styrofoam, meat tray liners
- Foil
- Wax paper
- Leather, textiles, clothing
- Cigarette butts, tobacco
- Corks (from wine bottles, etc.)
- Gum
- Cotton swabs/balls
- Baby wipes
- Disposable mop sheets
- Dryer lint, dryer sheets
- Vacuum cleaner bags and contents
- Hair, pet fur, feathers
- Fireplace or BBQ ashes
- Wood products, wood chips
- Candles
- All recyclable items



## You asked us . . . Here are the top 3 questions and answers about green bins.

### 1

#### Should I use plastic bags to line my green bin and kitchen container?

Yes – but please don't line both bins. Line your indoor container or outdoor green bin with a plastic bag, but just one or the other – not both. No special bag is required for either container. If you wish, you can reuse plastic grocery bags to line your indoor container. When it is full, simply remove the bag, twist or loosely tie it and throw it in your outdoor green bin. Any large plastic bag (e.g. green garbage bag) can be used if you choose to line your outdoor green bin. Please do not place your organics loose in the green bin. A plastic liner will:

- reduce smell;
- prevent spillage during pick-up;
- stop organics from freezing to the side of the bin; and
- keep your bins clean.

When using a plastic liner on your outdoor green bin, completely tuck it into the bin when you set it out for collection; otherwise the edges may carry smells attracting animals.

### 2

#### What do I do when the bin is full or too heavy by pick-up day?

A bin weighing more than 20 kgs (44 lbs) will not be picked up, so use one big see-through plastic bag for your overflow material. Use the overflow bag for non-food items (e.g. diapers) because they don't attract animals. Please make sure the overflow bag weighs no more than 20 kg (44 lbs). If you prefer, you can purchase another green bin for \$18 (indoor kitchen container is \$5) at your local Home Hardware store, or at one of our City of Toronto Yards or Transfer Stations. Visit [www.toronto.ca/recycle](http://www.toronto.ca/recycle) for listings, or call 416-338-2010.

### 3

#### Will animals and rodents get into the green bin?

The bins are durable and designed to be animal and rodent-resistant, but there are additional steps you can take to discourage four-legged creatures.

- Please securely latch the lid on your green bin before setting it out.
- If you use a bag to line your outdoor green bin, tie the bag loosely (no twist ties) and make sure it's tucked into the bin when you set it out. Animals love to pull the edges of bags, which tips over the bin.
- If you store your green bin in your backyard, stretch a bungee cord from handle to handle over the cover. **Then remove the cord before placing the green bin at the curb.** Tip: long bungee cords don't do the trick.
- Whenever possible, set your green bin out in the morning (before 7:00 a.m.) rather than the night before.



## ANY QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions about the Green Bin Program, please call City of Toronto Customer Service at 416-338-2010 or check out our web site at [www.toronto.ca/greenbin](http://www.toronto.ca/greenbin). Also available on the web site: a five-minute video explaining the green bin program.

To receive this information in French, Farsi, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Korean, Punjabi, Vietnamese, Russian or Tamil, please call 416-338-2010.

Pour recevoir ces renseignements en français, veuillez composer le 416 338-2010.

索取這個資訊的中文版，請致電 416-338-2010。

Per ottenere queste informazioni in italiano telefonate al 416-338-2010.

Para recibir esta información en español, tenga a bien llamar al 416-338-2010.

برای دریافت این اطلاعات بزبان فارسی، لطفا با تلفن شماره ۴۱۶-۳۳۸-۲۰۱۰ تماس بگیرید.

한국어로 이 정보를 받기를 원하시면 416-338-2010 번으로 전화 주시기 바랍니다.

இந்த விபரத்தை தமிழில் பெறுவதற்கு, அழைக்கவும்: 416-338-2010.

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Чтобы получить эту информацию на русском языке, позвоните по телефону 416-338-2010