

Going Green

GREEN BIN in Toronto, York and East York

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BLUE, GREY, **now GREEN... the** **colours of progress** **in Toronto, York** **and East York**

First you welcomed the blue box for recyclables and the grey box for your papers and cardboard. Now, judging by the more than 90 + per cent participation rate, the Green Bin is becoming a daily part of your lives. Thank you!

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 that material away from landfill and turns it into useful compost instead. With your efforts and that of Etobicoke and Scarborough residents, more than 220 fewer trucks, per month, are going to Michigan. So thank you Toronto, East York and York for your good work.

*"...Wonder, I am green and it'll do fine, it's beautiful!
And I think it's what I want to be."*

Kermit the Frog



Recycling Boxes Mix it Up... Green Bin Holding its Own

Blue and grey box recyclables now co-mingle... live together...mix it up. Whichever way you say it, all recyclable paper, cans, bottles and plastic, etc., can now be together in a grey and/or blue box. It's up to you!

But the Green Bin continues to hold its own.

Putting different recyclables together is called "single-stream" recycling. It means you can toss any items into either box.

Why can you now put your recyclables together?

This is possible because our processing plant now has technology that separates and processes blue and grey box recyclables. In other words, we do the separating for you.

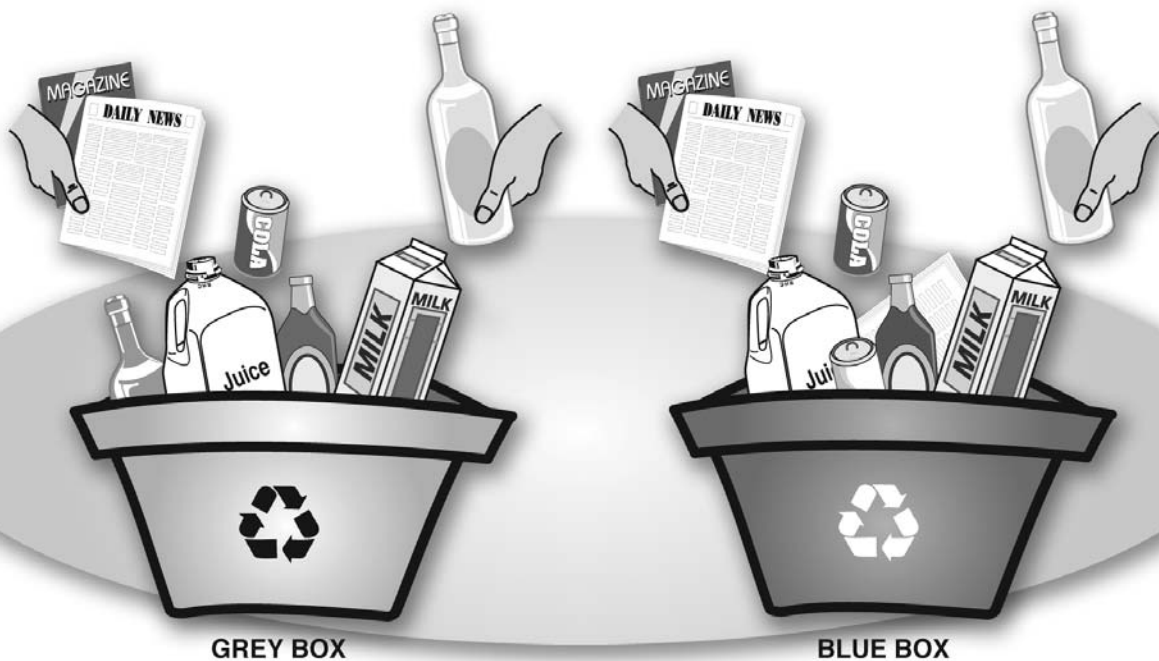
Some of you have noticed that garbage collectors are already putting grey and blue box recyclables

together in one compartment at the back of collection trucks. Our new technology is the reason why. *(Keep in mind all trucks have two compartments; one is always dedicated to green bin material while the other is for recyclables or garbage, depending on the collection schedule).*

Single-stream recycling also means that we don't have to send another truck down your street to collect the recyclables.

Bottom line: single-stream recycling makes sense.

So, continue recycling and separate the way you always do. Or mix blue and grey box material in whichever box is handy. And keep in mind that if one box is full, simply use the other for overflow. **Whatever you do, just remember to 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 baggie). 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.



Also keep in mind that:

- ✓ If you need to buy an extra recycling bin (\$6), please drop by one of our transfer stations or one of 37 Home Hardware stores in the Toronto area. *(Now that you can mix your recyclables, the City's new inventory of recycling bins will be blue, only. However, you can still use your current grey box for recycling.)*
- ✓ We know your recycling boxes are getting too full. Right now, we have a pilot project being tested in the east end to examine the pros and cons of using a big cart for recycling. The project's results will determine if we go city-wide with the program in the future. We're also looking at other ways to make it easier for you to recycle. We'll keep you posted as information becomes available.

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





You asked us . . . Here are the top 3 questions you ask us about green bins.

1

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

Yes – but there's no need to line both bins.

Use a plastic bag to line either your kitchen container **or** your green bin (regular grocery bags will do). We do recommend that you **do not place your organics loose in the green bin**. A plastic liner will:

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

When using a plastic liner, completely tuck it into the bin when you set it out; otherwise the edges may carry smells that attract animals to pull the bin over.

2

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

Not to worry, there are a couple of options.

- a)** 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.
- b)** You can purchase another green bin for \$18 (indoor kitchen container is \$5).
 - Buy a green bin at your local Home Hardware store or at one of our 11 City of Toronto Yards or Transfer Stations. Visit 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.

- a)** Please securely latch the lid on your green bin before setting it out.
- b)** If you use a bag to line your outdoor bin (optional), 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 then tips over the bin.
- c)** 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 bin at the curb. Tip: long bungee cords don't do the trick.
- d)** Whenever possible, set your 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 Customer Service at 416-338-2010 or check out our web site at www.toronto.ca/greenbin

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

Per avere queste informazioni in italiano si prega di chiamare il 416-338-2010.

Para matanggap ninyo ang impormasyong ito sa Tagalog, mangyaring tumawag lamang sa 416-338-2010.

Για να λάβετε αυτές τις πληροφορίες στα ελληνικά, τηλεφωνήστε στο 416-338-2010.

Muốn nhận thông tin này bằng tiếng Việt, xin gọi số 416-338-2010.

Aby otrzymać tą informację w języku polskim, prosimy dzwonić: 416 338-2010.

如欲索取中文資料，請致電416-338-2010。

یہ معلومات اردو میں حاصل کرنے کیلئے فون کریں: 416-338-2010

Para receber estas informações em português, queira telefonar para o 416-338-2010.

Para recibir esta información en español, sírvase llamar al 416-338-2010.