

WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BIN?

- You must line either your kitchen catcher or Green Bin (not both) with any plastic bag (e.g. grocery, milk, produce).
- Twist or loosely tie the plastic bag (no twist ties).
- Take food items out of their plastic bags/wrap; too much plastic causes problems.

Tips

YES ✓

- Fruits, vegetables
- Meat, poultry, fish products
- Pasta, bread, cereals, rice
- Dairy products, eggs and shells
- Coffee grounds/filters, tea bags
- Cake, cookies, candy, nuts
- Diapers, sanitary products
- Animal waste, bedding, cat litter
- House plants, including soil
- Paper – soiled
 - Food packaging, ice cream containers, popcorn, flour and sugar bags
 - Tissues, napkins, paper towels (not soiled with chemicals such as cleaning products)



NO X

Packaging

- Plastic or foil bags/wrap/trays
- Outer packaging
- Foam polystyrene meat trays and liners
- Plastic food containers, glass jars, pop cans
- Hot drink cups, lids, sleeves

Garbage

- Chopsticks, popsicle sticks, toothpicks
- Dryer sheets, baby wipes, make-up pads, dental floss, cotton tipped swabs
- Hair, pet fur, feathers, wax, cigarette butts, wine corks, vacuum bags/contents, fireplace and BBQ ashes



Houses (curbside collection)

- Line either your kitchen catcher or Green Bin. Do not line both.
- Use either a plastic bag or kraft paper bag to line either container (no special plastic or biodegradable bag is needed).

Apartments & condos (if applicable)

- Line kitchen catcher with any plastic bag (no special plastic or biodegradable bag is needed).
- Take bag to your building's Green Bin.

Tips

PLEASE **DON'T** CONTAMINATE THE ORGANICS PROGRAM

These items don't go in the Green Bin because they contaminate the system:



- **Plastic bags/wrap***
- **Plastic food containers and glass jars****
(empty & recycle)
- **General garbage**
(e.g. cigarette butts, wine corks, cotton balls, baby wipes, gum, pet feathers and fur, etc.)
- **Medical waste**
(e.g. cloth and plastic bandages, gauze, intravenous, catheter/colostomy bags and tubes)
- **Pop cans**
(empty & recycle)
- **Pieces of wood**

*Please take food items out of their plastic packaging (e.g. carrot bags, overwrap, etc.). Put only food items in the Green Bin. Check collection calendar or website tool Waste Wizard if packaging is recyclable.

**Please do not throw plastic containers and glass jars containing food into the Green Bin. Put the food in the Green Bin and depending on the type of container, put it in recycling (rinse to remove residue) or garbage.

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If I can use plastic bags to line either the bin or kitchen catcher, why can't I place such plastic items as yogurt containers or plastic wrap in the Green Bin?

While it's okay to line either of your containers with plastic bags, it is not okay to include plastic baggies, overwrap and other plastic packaging. Too much plastic causes serious quality problems at the processing facility. We appreciate your help in producing clean, rich compost.

Should I use bio-degradable bags to line either bin?

There is no need to buy special bags; used grocery bags are fine. Using a bio-degradable bag does not provide any real benefit. The mechanism used to open and separate the bags full of organics cannot distinguish a compostable/bio-degradable plastic bag from a regular plastic bag. All bags are opened, removed and treated as residue that requires landfill disposal.

Curbside collection: What happens if I lose my Green Bin or need another one – can I get extra bins?

Indoor kitchen catcher containers are available at selected retailers and Community Environment Day events. Contact 311 to request an additional new Green Bin.

toronto.ca/greenbin

Not sure how to dispose of an item?

WASTE WIZARD, an online search tool, lists over 1,500 waste items and how to properly dispose of them. Search it at toronto.ca/recycle (or call 311).