


Know before you throw!

Use this guide to help you understand what waste items go where in the city of Toronto.

Important information:

- A  (with or without a number inside) on an item **doesn't mean it's accepted in Toronto's Blue Bin recycling program**. Check this guide or the Waste Wizard online or on the TOwaste app to find out where something goes.
- **Flexible multi-layered packaging (e.g. stand-up pouches) and plastic-lined paper (e.g. instant oatmeal packs) go in the Garbage Bin.** To check if paper is lined with plastic, rip it slowly. If you see any plastic lining, the item goes in the Garbage Bin.
- The following **items marketed or labelled as compostable or biodegradable go in the Garbage Bin**: containers/packaging, coffee pods, coffee cups and cutlery. Some items can be returned to retailers/manufacturers who offer take-back programs.
- **Household hazardous waste** (e.g. flammable, corrosive, explosive and poisonous items) should never go in the Blue Bin (recycling) or Garbage Bin. These items should be taken to a Drop-Off Depot for proper disposal.
- **Electronic waste** is collected separately at curbside and at apartment and condominium buildings.
- Think **reduce and reuse**! The less waste you produce, the less there is to manage.

Unsure where a waste item goes?

Check the Waste Wizard
online at toronto.ca/wastewizard or on the **TOwaste app**



Download the
TOwaste app



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STOP!



These items DO NOT go in the Blue Bin (recycling)

Where they go

Black plastic

- Garbage bags with or without content
- Takeout food containers
- Plant pots



Garbage

Various plastic items

- Compostable plastic items (containers, cutlery, coffee pods, etc.)
- Bubble wrap
- Squeeze tubes for home and personal products (hair, body, etc.)
- Toys (donate, if possible)



Garbage

Some food packaging

- Food wrap (plastic or foil)
- Chip bags and candy wrappers
- Stand-up pouches
- Hot and cold beverage cups



Garbage

Household items

- Drinking glasses, cups, dishes
- Pots and pans
- Window glass and mirrors
- Cassettes, CDs, DVDs
- Cables, cords, hoses, ropes
- Metal and plastic hangers
- Small appliances (e.g. blender, kettle, hair dryer)



Donate if possible.
Otherwise these are **Garbage**.

Small metal items (i.e. kettle) may be dropped off at some Drop-Off Depots as scrap metal.

Clothing and other textiles

- Shoes
- Carpets and curtains
- Bedding and towels



Donate if possible.
Otherwise these are **Garbage**.

Organic waste

- Food scraps (peels, shells, bones)
- Coffee grounds, filters and tea bags
- House plants
- Paper soiled with a large amount of food or grease
- Pet waste



Green Bin (organics)

Household Hazardous Waste

- Pressurized tanks and cylinders (propane, helium, freon, etc.)
- Batteries
- Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)
- Paint
- Cleaners and chemicals
- Syringes and needles



Drop-Off Depot
or
Toxic Taxi

Construction and metal items

- Tools
- Scrap metal
- Doors
- Countertops and cabinets
- Drywall



Donate if possible, or
Drop-Off Depot (not all items may be accepted at all Depots, check before you go)

Put Waste in the Right Place

Blue Bin Recycling

- Empty containers of food/liquid/product and rinse off any residue
- Put items in loose, not bagged (except for shredded paper)
- Use a clear plastic bag only if necessary

Plastic



Bottles, jugs (lids on)



Clear food containers, clear or non-black disposable plates, cups



Food jars, tubs (lids on)



Bags and overwrap (soft and stretchy)



Foam food and protective packaging

Glass



Bottles, jars (lids on)

Metal



Food and drink containers (place lid inside can and pinch closed)



Aluminum trays, pie plates, roasting pans

Paper

Not wet or contaminated with food or chemicals



Milk, juice, soup cartons and boxes



Cereal boxes, tissue boxes and other boxboard (flattened)



Cardboard (flattened)



Fine paper



Paper less than two inches (5 cm) should be put in a clear bag with shredded paper or inserted into an envelope



Newspapers, flyers, magazines

Books

Green Bin Organics

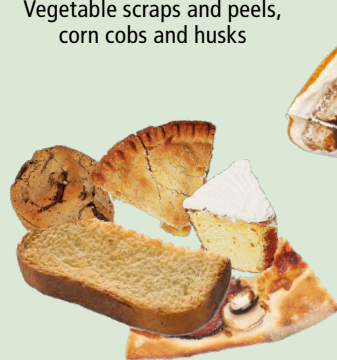
- Use regular plastic or paper bags to line bin
- Compostable bags are not necessary
- Remove all food packaging and stickers from fruits and vegetables



Vegetable scraps and peels, corn cobs and husks



Fruit cores, pits and peels



Baked goods, desserts



Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags



Pasta, couscous, potatoes, rice, oatmeal, flour, grains



Dairy products, eggs and shells



Meat, fish, shellfish (including bones)



Nuts, nutshells



House plants (including soil)



Pet waste



Soiled paper plates

Garbage Bin



Black plastic (e.g. food containers, bags, cutlery, lids)



Hot and cold drink cups, straws (recycle non-black lids and sleeves)



Stand-up pouches, drink pouches, straws



Liner bags (cereal, cookies, crackers)



Coffee pods (any type)



Bubble wrap



Compostable, biodegradable containers, cups, cutlery



Dryer and disposable mop sheets, baby wipes, make-up pads, cotton tipped swabs, dental floss



Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, chopsticks



Plastic or foil candy/chocolate wrappers, chip bags, aluminum foil



Light bulbs (not CFLs), dishes, drinking glasses



Gum packages, blister packs



Personal protective equipment (masks, gloves)



Hair, pet hair, feathers, nail clippings, dryer lint



- This poster is a quick reference. Not everything that goes in the Blue Bin (recycling), Green Bin (organic waste) or garbage is listed here.
- Not sure where something goes? Check WASTE WIZARD at toronto.ca/wastewizard or on the TOWaste app or call 311.
- Call 311 Toronto to request this information in different languages.

Thank you for putting waste in the right place!

Updated: October 2020

Credit: Halton Region concept and selected photos