

What goes in the Green Bin (Organics)?

YES

ALL FOOD WASTE* including:

- ✓ Vegetables (including scraps, peels)
- ✓ Fruits (including cores, pits, peels)
- ✓ Dairy products, eggs and :
- ✓ Pasta, rice, grains, cereals
- ✓ Nuts, nutshells
- ✓ Meat, poultry, fish, shellfish (including bones)

*Fresh, frozen, dried, prepared, cooked or spoiled



OTHER ITEMS including:

- ✓ Coffee grounds, paper filters, tea bags
- ✓ Tissues, paper napkins, paper towels (chemical-soiled ones go in the garbage)
- ✓ Food-soiled paper without wax or plastic lining/coating (e.g. bags, plates, pizza boxes)
- ✓ Diapers, feminine hygiene products
- ✓ Paper muffin cups
- ✓ Pet waste
- ✓ House plants (including soil)



NO

- ✗ Packaging (plastic, foam, foil, glass etc.)
- ✗ Compostable plastic, wax and plastic-lined paper items (e.g. cups, plates, containers, cutlery)
- ✗ Waxed and parchment paper
- ✗ Chopsticks, popsicle sticks, toothpicks, stir sticks, wooden cutlery
- ✗ Wood pieces, yard waste
- ✗ Hair, pet fur, feathers, nail clippings
- ✗ Wipes, disposable masks, cotton balls, cotton-tipped swabs, make-up pads, dental floss, dryer sheets
- ✗ Gum, wax, wine corks, vacuum bags/contents
- ✗ Cigarette butts, ashes



Proper Use & Tips

- Remove packaging from food. Recycle packaging if accepted in the Blue Bin or put in the garbage.
- Remove stickers, elastic bands and twist ties from produce.
- Line your organics container(s) or Green Bin. Do not line both. Use any plastic bag or paper bag to line either container. Compostable bags are not necessary.
- Twist or loosely tie plastic bag (no twist ties).
- To prevent odours, wash organics containers and Green Bins frequently (both can be cleaned with dish soap).
- Consider storing organic waste in your freezer or fridge to reduce odours and flies.

Not sure how to dispose of an item?

- Check the Waste Wizard or the TOwaste app
- Contact 311



Need a new bin?

Contact 311 to request a new or additional Green Bin.

Indoor organics containers may be purchased from various retailers or requested from your property manager.

Updated September 2021

The Green Bin (Organics) Program

Thank you for helping the City of Toronto divert over 160,000 tonnes of organic waste from landfill each year through the Green Bin program!

Although it's important to divert as much waste as possible from landfill, not all items are accepted in the City's Green Bin program. Items marketed as compostable or biodegradable such as cups, cutlery and coffee pods **are not accepted** in Toronto's Green Bin program, and must go in the garbage.

How Green Bin Waste is Processed



At the organics processing facility, Green Bin waste is pre-processed to remove materials such as plastic bags, containers and cutlery, which are then sent to landfill.



The remaining material is then processed in anaerobic digesters over a couple of weeks. In the digesters, microorganisms break down the material in the absence of oxygen. This produces digester solids and biogas.



The digester solids are mixed with yard waste to make high quality compost, which is given away at Community Environment Days and some Drop-Off Depots.

The biogas is being converted into renewable natural gas (RNG) that the City can use to power its vehicles and buildings and reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information visit toronto.ca/greenbin

Why the City can't accept certain items in the Green Bin program:



The Green Bin program was designed primarily to handle food waste and some fibre/paper products. It was not designed to process packaging. As a result, products labelled as compostable or biodegradable – such as cups, cutlery and coffee pods – are not accepted in Toronto's Green Bin program. These items may be made of or lined with materials (e.g. bio-based plastics) that do not have the right conditions to break down at City organics processing facilities.

Benefits of Toronto's organics processing system:

- Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced through the capture of biogas which can be upgraded to renewable natural gas (RNG).
- Odours are minimized in a controlled facility, allowing the City to process organics within city limits.
- Diapers are accepted in the Green Bin because their organic components can be captured.
- Makes participation in the Green Bin program easier by allowing residents to put organics in any plastic or paper bag.