

# 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 shells
- ✓ 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, cage bedding
- ✓ House plants (shake off dirt)



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## 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
- ✗ Ceramic and glass dishes
- ✗ Chopsticks, popsicle sticks, toothpicks, stir sticks, wooden cutlery
- ✗ 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
- ✗ Yard waste (e.g., brush, branches, wood chips, leaves, soil, plants)
- ✗ Porcelain (toilets, sinks), concrete, metal items, construction waste



## 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 kitchen container for organics 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 kitchen container for organics 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 online at [toronto.ca/WasteWizard](https://toronto.ca/WasteWizard) or the TOwaste app at [toronto.ca/WasteApp](https://toronto.ca/WasteApp).
- Contact 311

### Need a new Green Bin or kitchen container for organics?

Contact 311 or your property manager.



# The Green Bin Program

Thank you for helping the City of Toronto keep waste out of landfill by participating in the Green Bin program!

While the City works to divert as much waste as possible from landfill, only certain items can be put in the Green Bin. 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 facilities, your Green Bin waste is pre-processed to remove plastic bags and contaminants such as non-paper containers and cutlery, which are then sent to landfill.



The remaining material is 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, some of which is given away at Community Environment Day events and City Drop-Off Depots.

The biogas is captured and upgraded into renewable natural gas (RNG) that the City uses to help fuel its vehicles and heat its buildings, reducing its overall greenhouse gas emissions.

**Construction waste should never be placed in the Green Bin, as it causes damage to expensive processing equipment.**

**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:

- Biogas from processing organics is captured and upgraded into RNG, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Odours are minimized in controlled facilities, allowing the City to process organics within city limits.
- Residents can put organics in any plastic or paper bag making it easier to participate in the program.
- Diapers are accepted in the Green Bin because their organic components can be captured.