



Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Project

**User Guide
October 2020 – September 2022**

Welcome to the residential food waste collection pilot project

Did you know that approximately 25% of our garbage is actually food waste? When food waste ends up in the landfill, it produces harmful greenhouse gases.

Our new residential food waste collection pilot project will help reduce those greenhouse gases and return nutrients to the soil.

Getting started

- Food waste collection starts **the first week of October**, on the same day your recycling and garbage carts are picked up. Please do not start using your cart until October.
- Use your **kitchen pail** to collect day-to-day food waste in your home. Find a place that's convenient to store it, like on your kitchen counter or under the sink.
- To help keep your kitchen pail clean, you can use **BPI-certified compostable plastic bags, paper bags or newspaper** to line it.
- When convenient, empty your kitchen pail into your **green cart**. We recommend you store your green cart in your garage or a shady spot in your yard.



On your collection day

- Place your carts out by 7 a.m. on your regular collection day.
- Space your carts at least one arm's length (one metre) from each other and other objects.
- Bring your carts back onto private property as soon as possible after collection.



Keeping things clean

These tips will help keep your pail and cart clean, and reduce odours:

- Line your kitchen pail with a BPI-certified compostable plastic bag, paper bag or newspaper.
- Line the bottom of the green cart with old newspapers, flyers or cardboard. This also helps to keep food waste from freezing to the bottom in the winter.
- Place your green cart out for collection every week, even when it's not full.
- Store your green cart away from the hot sun when possible.
- Occasionally rinse out your kitchen pail and green cart with warm water and soap or vinegar.

Green cart accepted materials

Yes! Put these in your green cart.

Food waste, raw and cooked

- ✓ Fruit and vegetable scraps
- ✓ Meat, fish and bones
- ✓ Solid fats (e.g., meat trimmings, butter, cooled bacon grease)
- ✓ Dairy products (e.g., cheese, yogurt, sour cream)
- ✓ Eggs and eggshells
- ✓ Bread, pasta, rice, grains, beans and cereal
- ✓ Baked goods and desserts
- ✓ Nuts, seeds, chips and candy
- ✓ Coffee grounds and filters, tea leaves and tea bags
- ✓ Condiments and sauces
- ✓ Plate scrapings
- ✓ Pet food

Paper products

- ✓ Food-soiled paper towel and napkins
- ✓ Used tissues
- ✓ Paper plates
- ✓ Greasy paper takeout bags, pizza boxes
- ✓ Waxed paper, parchment paper, paper muffin liners

Other household items

- ✓ Wooden stir sticks, toothpicks, chopsticks, popsicle sticks
- ✓ Pet hair, feathers and human hair
- ✓ Shredded paper
- ✓ Houseplants

Compostable bags

- ✓ BPI-certified compostable plastic bags
- ✓ Paper bags

No. Do not put these in your green cart.

Certain organic materials

These items are not compatible with our current composting facility

- ✗ Compostable plastic food containers and cutlery
- ✗ Liquid cooking oil, grease, fat
- ✗ Pet waste and cat litter
- ✗ Wood and lumber
- ✗ Ashes
- ✗ Animal carcasses

Diapers and personal hygiene products

- ✗ Diapers
- ✗ Baby wipes, cosmetic wipes
- ✗ Tampons, sanitary pads
- ✗ Cotton balls, swabs

Food and beverage containers and packaging

- ✗ Plastic bags, unless they are BPI-certified compostable
- ✗ Food and beverage containers (e.g., jars, bottles, cans, tubs)
- ✗ Food boxes (e.g., cereal, cracker, pasta)
- ✗ Meat trays
- ✗ Coffee cups and lids
- ✗ Plastic wrap
- ✗ Foil
- ✗ Food still in its packaging

Other household items

- ✗ Clothing and textiles
- ✗ Medication
- ✗ Disposable wipes
- ✗ Dryer sheets
- ✗ Vacuum bag contents
- ✗ Cigarette butts

Frequently asked questions

Why are you doing a residential food waste collection pilot project?

We are conducting a food waste collection pilot project to test how a city-wide program might work. The data and feedback we receive will be presented to City Council, who will decide on the potential for a city-wide program. Food waste diversion is a key step towards significantly increasing our waste diversion rate.

Why is it important to keep food waste out of the landfill?

Keeping food waste out of the landfill reduces greenhouse gases and the impact on our environment. Composting food waste turns it into a valuable material and returns nutrients to the soil.

What happens after the food waste is collected?

All food waste collected will be composted at the Brady Road Resource Management Facility.

Can I use plastic bags for my kitchen pail?

Use only BPI-certified compostable plastic bags. No other type of plastic bag will be accepted. Look for these symbols to make sure the liner bags are certified compostable:



Why can't I put compostable plastic containers and cutlery in my green cart?

These are not compatible with our current composting facility.

Can I put food waste in my yard waste collection?

No. Please only use your green cart for food waste collection.

What happens if my cart was missed on collection day?

Contact 311 to report a missed collection.

What do I do if my cart is lost or damaged?

Contact 311 to report a lost or damaged cart.

What happens when the pilot project ends?

After the pilot project is complete in September 2022, we will assess it and the feedback we received, and provide a report to Council. They will then make a decision on whether to move forward with a city-wide residential food waste collection program.

For more information

- Visit winnipeg.ca/foodwastecollection
- Email us at foodwastecollection@winnipeg.ca
- Contact 311