

Calgary



Green Cart

Food and yard waste guide



Green carts are an easy and convenient way to cut your garbage in half. All of your food and yard material will be turned into nutrient-rich compost rather than going to waste in our landfills.

Para consultar esta información en español:

有關此信息的繁體中文： 有关此信息的简体中文： ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ:

contact 311 | calgary.ca/greencart



By using our green carts, we'll keep over 85 million kilograms of food and yard waste out of our landfills every year.



Welcome to Green Cart

After a successful Green Cart pilot program that saw residents reduce their garbage by nearly half, green carts are being rolled out across the city.

What's in this guide

This information package contains everything you need to know to start using your green cart including:



Understanding the benefits of composting versus burying material in the landfill.



How and when to set your cart out for collection.



All the food and yard waste that can go in your cart.



A refresher on Blue Cart and Black Cart service.



Step-by-step instructions on using your cart.



What's left in our garbage?

More than half of what we throw away is compostable.

Calgarians have embraced our current recycling and composting programs, but there's still more we can do.

When we look at what's left in our garbage, you'd be amazed to find out that more than half of it is compostable food and yard waste.

It's the single largest type of waste that's filling up our landfills.



With your help, we will achieve the highest quality standard of compost that's certified by the Compost Council of Canada's Compost Quality Alliance program. Learn more at compost.org.



The benefits of Green Cart

The Green Cart program will help protect the environment and avoid future landfill costs.

- **Create nutrient-rich compost**
The food and yard waste you put in your green cart will be turned into a high quality compost to enrich the soil in gardens, community parks and local farms. It's expected over 85 million kilograms of material will be turned into compost each year.
- **Protect our land, air and water resources**
When food and yard waste is compacted in the landfill there's no oxygen so it doesn't turn into soil or anything good. In fact, it creates bad stuff like methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) and leachate (a liquid that seeps through the landfill picking up other contaminants). Expensive protective systems are in place to capture the bad

stuff and to protect public health and our precious land, air and water resources.

- **Keep material out of landfills to avoid future landfill costs**

If we fill up our current landfills, finding new space will be a difficult and expensive process. New landfill applications continue to be largely unsuccessful because of increasingly stringent regulations combined with the fact that nobody wants a landfill in their backyard.

If we did get regulatory approval, we still face significant costs. The cost to buy land, make capital investments in protective systems, set aside funds for long-term landfill liabilities and operate the landfill over 25 years is estimated at \$1.5 billion.

By composting, we can preserve the valuable space left in our current landfills and avoid future costs.



One good turn deserves another

A portion of the finished compost will be made available to the community for free. The proceeds from the sale of the rest of the compost help reduce the processing costs and lower the program fee.



Pilot residents cut their trash nearly in half

Using your green cart is one of the easiest ways you can make a difference. The City piloted the program in four communities and saw a dramatic drop in garbage thanks to residents using their green carts.



Here's what we've heard from our pilot participants:

"I love the green bin! I hardly throw anything in the garbage anymore!"

"You can put more into the green cart than your regular compost pile, like animal waste and scraps from meat."

"At first, I was initially opposed to it because I have a composter of my own. But since it's been in use for a few months I have started using it a lot more. I like the convenience of the green cart – I can move it around and have it wherever I go."



The Green Cart program is an important step in achieving City Council's goal of diverting 70 per cent of waste from City landfills by 2025.





Yes. Put these compostables into your green cart.

The green cart goes beyond backyard composting and you'll be amazed at all the items that can go in. Even small amounts add up, so remember to include the food from meal preparation, cleaning out the fridge and plate scrapings too.



Plate scrapings



Meat, fish and bones



Fruits and vegetables
Remove any stickers.



Bread and noodles



Eggshells and dairy products



Coffee filters and tea bags



Paper plates, napkins and tissues



Cooking oil, sauces and grease

Tip: Use a paper towel to soak up any fats, oils or grease and put it in your green cart too.



Grass clippings and sod

Want to do more? Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Clippings decompose within days and return valuable nutrients to the soil.



Branches

Should be smaller than 1.25 metres (4 ft.) and 15 cm (6") in diameter.



Plants and weeds



Leaves



Kitty litter (all varieties) and pet waste

Collected in a certified compostable bag or paper bag.



Many more materials can be safely composted with your green cart because of the advanced technology used at the composting facility. During the composting process, the material reaches and maintains temperatures of at least 55 degrees Celsius, which kills any harmful bacteria found in materials like meat and pet waste.



No. Please keep these items OUT of your green cart.

By keeping the following items out of your green cart, you're doing your part to ensure we can produce the highest quality compost possible that will be used on lawns, local farms, gardens and in our community.



No plastic or biodegradable bags

If using a bag to line your kitchen pail, only use **certified compostable bags**.



No food or beverage packaging



No diapers or wipes



No painted or treated wood



No plastic plates or cutlery



No fruit or vegetable stickers

If in doubt, check it out.

Go to calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere to find out where it can be composted, recycled or safely disposed.





Collecting food and yard waste

Using your green cart is easy and will quickly become a part of your everyday routine. Here's how you can get started.

In the kitchen



Lining the pail with a certified compostable bag or newspaper is a great way to keep it clean and tidy, but it's not required.



Toss all food waste into the kitchen pail.



When your pail is full, put it into your green cart.

Yard and pet waste



Always fill your green cart first. Yard waste can be put loose inside the cart.



If your green cart is full, use paper yard waste bags for any extra yard waste.



Pet waste must be collected in a certified compostable bag or paper bag.

Options for lining your kitchen pail

Certified compostable bags

Only certified compostable bags are guaranteed to completely breakdown during the composting process.

Do not buy bags labeled as biodegradable, oxo-biodegradable or ecofriendly. They'll end up in small pieces that will contaminate the finished compost.

How do I know I'm buying the right bags?

All certified compostable bags will have these logos on the box.



For a list of brands and retailers, visit calgary.ca/greencart.

Newspaper or flyers

Don't want to use a bag? You can use newspaper instead. Find step-by-step instructions on how to fold a newspaper for a perfect fit at calgary.ca/greencart.



Sprinkle baking soda in your kitchen pail and green cart to minimize odors.

Other helpful hints

- Place your kitchen pail in the dishwasher or hand wash as needed.
- In the cold winter months, some material may stick inside the cart. If you find this is a problem, place crumpled newspaper at the bottom of your cart.
- Making simple changes to your routine like doing weekly meal planning and making use of food that's already on hand can have a big impact on your wallet and reduce unnecessary food waste.

Find more tips at calgary.ca/greencart.





Yes. Put these recyclables into your blue cart.

Calgarians are doing a great job recycling. Together we keep approximately 65 million kilograms of materials out of our landfills every year and instead turn these items into new useful products again. Here's a quick refresher on all the items that can go in your blue cart.

Paper and cardboard



Shredded paper

Place shredded paper in a see-through plastic bag and tie closed.



Glass jars and bottles

Plastic food containers, jugs and bottles

Labeled with recycling symbols 1-7

Food cans and foil



Beverage containers

Refundable beverage containers can also be returned to bottle depots for deposit refunds.



Bundled plastic bags/bubble wrap

Bundle plastic bags, bubble wrap and plastic film into one plastic bag and tie the handles closed. **Why?** Loose bags get stuck in the sorting machines. They need to be bagged together so the workers can sort them easily.





No. Please keep these items OUT of your blue cart.

Calgary's Blue Cart program allows residents to recycle a lot of things, but sometimes our recycling facility gets items that can injure a worker, get stuck in the sorting machines, shut down the facility or spoil the quality of good recyclables. Please do your part and keep these items out of your recycling.



No household hazardous waste

If an item has a hazard symbol, then it must be taken to a **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off**, even if it's empty.



No scrap metal

For recycling drop-off locations visit calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere.



No household items



No bagged recyclables

Except for a bag that contains shredded paper, or a bag that contains other plastic bags, bubble wrap and plastic wrap.



No foam containers or foam packaging



No electronics

For recycling drop-off locations visit calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere.



No construction or building materials



No shoes, clothing, toys or sporting goods

If in doubt, check it out.

Go to calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere to find out where it can be donated, recycled or safely disposed.





No. Please keep these items OUT of your garbage.

After reusing, composting and recycling, you will easily cut your garbage in half. Only items that have reached the end of their useful life should go in the garbage.

For the safety of your collector and collection truck, the following items are not accepted through residential collection.

Go to calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere to find out where to take them.



No electronics

For recycling drop-off locations visit calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere.



No construction or building materials



No automobile waste including parts, tires, batteries and motor oil



No household appliances or furniture



No oversized items

(i.e. items longer than 1.25 metres or heavier than 20 kilograms)



No household hazardous waste

If an item has a hazard symbol, then it must be taken to a **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off**, even if it's empty.

Properly package and bag materials

- **Dusty materials** (e.g. vacuum dust) need to be double bagged, tied closed and placed in your black cart.
- **Sharp objects** (e.g. broken glass or needles) need to be put in a puncture resistant container such as a plastic bleach bottle. Seal tightly and place in your black cart.



Your collection schedule

Check the schedule that was delivered with your cart or visit calgary.ca/collection to view your full schedule.



Green carts and blue carts will be picked up **every week on the same day.**



Black carts will be picked up once **every two weeks on a different day** since the majority of your garbage can be recycled or composted.



Never miss your collection day

Get **free reminders** before your pick up along with helpful tips about your waste collection. Sign up today at calgary.ca/collection.



Using your carts



Fill it

Fill your carts and lower the lids. Make sure the material isn't packed in too tightly.

As a reminder:

- **Food and yard waste** belongs in the green cart.
- **Recyclables** belong in the blue cart.



Place it

To ensure collection, carts need to be out by **7 a.m.** on your collection day. Place the carts on flat ground, not on a raised platform.

- **Front street:** Place cart wheels against the curb.
- **Back lane:** Place cart wheels with enough space to walk between your cart and your back hedge, garage or fence.



Space it

Leave enough space around your carts so that you can walk between and around them. This ensures carts can be safely collected.



Store it

Remember to pull your carts back onto your property by **7 p.m.** on your collection day. Please don't leave your carts blocking the alleyways.

Is your cart full? Here's what to do:



Extra yard waste

When your green cart is full, use paper yard waste bags. Extra branches can also be tied in 1.25 metre (4 ft.) bundles with natural fibre string. Set bags or branches at least 30 cm (1 ft.) away from the side of your cart. Be sure the bags can be easily lifted.



Extra recycling

Take your extra recycling to a community recycling depot or save it for next week.

Exposure to rain and snow can reduce the quality of recyclables and wind creates a problem with litter. That's why we only collect recyclables that fit inside the blue cart.



Extra garbage

Your black cart can hold three or four bags of garbage. If your black cart is full, set extra garbage bags at least 30 cm (1 ft.) away from the side of your cart. Be sure the bags can be easily lifted.

Quick Reference Guide

 GREEN CART Pick up every week Food and yard waste	 BLUE CART Pick up every week Recyclables	 OTHER OPTIONS	 BLACK CART Pick up once every two weeks Garbage
<p>Food</p>  <p>Yard waste</p>  <p>Food-soiled paper</p>  <p>Pet waste</p> 	<p>Paper and cardboard</p>  <p>Plastic containers and packaging</p>  <p>Bundled plastic bags</p>  <p>Food cans and foil</p>  <p>Glass jars and bottles</p> 	<p>Find out more ways to donate, recycle and safely dispose of your items at calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere.</p> <p>Household hazardous waste</p>   <p>Electronics</p>  <p>Toys and clothing</p> 	<p>Foam packaging</p>  <p>Rubber hoses</p>  <p>Used packaging</p>  <p>Diapers</p>  <p>Plastic cutlery and straws</p>  <p>Toothpaste tubes</p> 