

“I had no idea the
**Green Bin
program**
diverts so much
waste,,


York Region

GREEN BIN PROGRAM



Did You Know?

- Effective **May 1, 2011**, plastic bags are no longer accepted as Green Bin liners; use certified compostable bags or paper bags to line your Green Bin
- Organics make up more than one-third of what we throw out; food waste, dirty diapers, pet waste, food-soiled paper products and small amounts of shredded paper are accepted in the Green Bin
- By using your Green Bin or backyard composter, you are recycling your organic waste into a valuable compost, while reducing the amount of waste sent for disposal
- Biodegradable bags are not always compostable; look for the Compostable logo when purchasing certified compostable bags; paper bags do not require this logo:

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE BAGS DISPLAY THIS LOGO



Green Bin Tips

- To absorb any excess moisture in your containers, line the bottom with paper towels or newspapers
- Remove food from packaging or plastic wrap before placing in the Green Bin
- Green Bin materials are not accepted at York Region's public drop-off depots; please use the weekly curbside collection provided by your local municipality

How It Works

It is recommended that you keep your large Green Bin in the garage or in an area of easy access.

For convenience, your small kitchen container can be placed under your kitchen sink, on your counter or wherever you have compostable materials.

There are two ways to use the Green Bin:

OPTION 1

Line your small kitchen container with a certified compostable bag or paper bag. Place your food scraps and organic materials in the kitchen container. Once the bag is full, tie it and place in the large Green Bin.

OPTION 2

Line the large Green Bin with a large sized compostable bag and place your organic materials directly into the Green Bin. Before setting your Green Bin at the curb make sure to tie the large bag inside.

Due to the nature of some of the materials collected in the Green Bin (pet waste, diapers, sanitary products) most municipalities require organics to be bagged. Contact your local municipality to see if alternative options are available in your area.



The material collected through the Green Bin program is composted and used for agricultural and horticultural use. Using compostable bags helps produce a higher quality compost.

What goes in the Green Bin?

Food Products

(all consumable foods, raw or cooked)

- Baking ingredients
- Breads and cereals
- Candy and confectionery products
- Coffee grounds, filters and tea bags
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Fish and shellfish
- Fruits and vegetables (raw or cooked)
- Herbs and spices
- Meat products (including bones, fat, skin)
- Nuts
- Pasta

Paper Products

- Boxboard (food-soiled)
- Cardboard (food-soiled)
- Facial tissue
- Kraft paper (e.g. meat wrap)
- Microwaveable popcorn bags
- Muffin papers
- Newspaper (food-soiled)
- Paper cups and paper plates (food-soiled)
- Paper towels
- Polycoat containers (e.g. paper ice cream container)
- Shredded paper (small amounts)

Other

- Diapers
- Pet waste, litter, bedding and fur
- Feathers
- Hair
- Houseplants and flowers (dried and fresh cut)
- Incontinence products
- Nail clippings
- Pet food
- Sanitary products
- Sawdust



What does NOT go in the Green Bin?

- Artificial flowers
- Ashes
- Baby wipes
- Candles
- Carpet and rugs
- Cigarette butts
- Clothing, leather and textiles
- Corks
- Cotton balls, ear cleaners and makeup removal pads
- Dead animals
- Disposable mop sheets
- Dryer lint and dryer sheets
- Foil
- Gum
- Milk bags
- Plastic sandwich bags
- Plastic wrap
- Styrofoam
- Tissue paper for gift bags
- Toothpicks
- Vacuum cleaner bags and contents
- Wax paper
- Wood
- Wooden craft sticks and stir sticks
- Yard waste

What Happens to the Green Bin Waste?

The Green Bin is collected from the curb by your local municipality and is processed by licensed composting facilities under contract to The Regional Municipality of York.

Initial Processing

Bags of Green Bin material are first shredded open and then loaded into concrete enclosed tunnels where the material is composted under climate-controlled conditions.

The Break Down

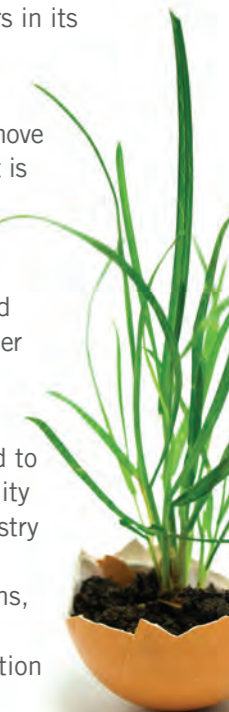
Existing micro-organisms in the food waste break down the material naturally, producing compost. This process creates heat that pasteurizes or sterilizes the compost, ridding the material of any pathogens or harmful bacteria. It is this pasteurization phase that allows York Region to accept pet waste and diapers in its Green Bin program.

Screening

The compost is screened to remove any plastics or contaminants. It is then placed outdoors to mature for the final composting stage. Compostable bags reduce the amount of plastic to be removed and disposed, producing a higher quality end product.

Testing and Final Use

The finished compost is tested to ensure it meets the strict quality guidelines set out by the Ministry of the Environment. It is then used in a variety of applications, including horticultural and agricultural use, land reclamation and roadside erosion control.





**Do your part York Region
COMPOST MORE!**

For more information,
visit www.york.ca/waste
or call 1-877-449-9675