

GREEN BIN GUIDE



Beyond zero|waste Composting

GET READY TO JOIN THE GREEN BIN PROGRAM

Green bin food and kitchen waste collection is the most significant expansion of curbside services since the introduction of curbside recycling. By participating you will reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill and help improve our environment.

The Green Bin Program provides weekly scheduled collection of food, kitchen waste and compostable paper. More than 8,000 Nanaimo households already participating in the program have reduced their garbage by nearly 50 per cent.

Moving Beyond Composting

The program goes beyond what can be composted at home by accepting **cooked food, meat, fish, bones, and food soiled paper** and **paper packaging** such as **waxed fast food cups** and **milk cartons**. Instead of going to the landfill, compostable household organic material is converted into value-added resources – compost, nutrient-enriched soil, and eventually renewable fuels.

Participating is as easy as following the simple steps in this guide. Your efforts will help achieve our regional goal of diverting 75 per cent of waste from the landfill, and leading the way in BC and Canada.

Getting Started . . .

Today you received your green bin. Inside are a kitchen catcher, a new 3-month collection schedule, some sample **compostable** liner bags to try, and decals listing acceptable and unacceptable materials. Here is how to start participating in the Green Bin Program:

1. Read this guide and keep it handy for future reference.
2. In October, replace your 2011 collection schedule with your new 3-month collection schedule.
3. Check and follow the schedule for green bin, garbage and recycling collection days. **Kitchen waste service begins on your next scheduled collection day after September 30th.** Start using your green bin the week before collection begins.
4. Attach the small decal to the lid of your kitchen catcher and the large decal to the lid of your wheeled-green bin.



CHECK YOUR NEW COLLECTION SCHEDULE

- Read the legend at the bottom of the schedule.
- Food and kitchen waste is scheduled for weekly collection (all coloured squares).
- One standard-size container of garbage is scheduled for collection every two weeks (red square). Up to two additional containers can be put out on your collection day, by attaching a \$2 tag to each additional standard-size container.
- Recyclables are scheduled for collection once every two weeks (blue square).
- **Some** schedules have a round symbol that is half blue and half red. This means garbage, food waste, and recycling will be collected on the same day. This results from extended periods between garbage pick-ups caused by statutory holidays.

Visit www.nanaimo.ca or www.beyondcomposting.ca for more information or to view a short video that explains how to make the Green Bin Program work for you.

Beans to bones in the bin!

GREEN BIN BASICS

Using your kitchen catcher

1. The sample compostable bags provided are for you to try in this container. Their use is optional.
2. Store your kitchen catcher (small beige container) on your counter, under the sink or other handy location. **(Do not put out for curbside collection.)**
3. Collect food waste in your kitchen catcher and empty when full into the large green bin.
4. Wash or rinse as needed. The container is dishwasher safe.



kitchen catcher

Using your green bin

1. Use your green bin to store food waste. Place large soiled compostable paper products such as waxed cardboard or pizza boxes directly in the green bin.
2. Keep the lid **securely latched** to help control odours and keep out rodents and other animals.
3. Store your green bin in a **cool, ventilated location**, such as where you keep your garbage can.
4. Wheel the green bin to the curb **before 8 a.m. on your collection day** even if it is not full.



green bin

Lining your containers

For convenience and cleanliness you may choose to use a liner in your kitchen container or green bin. The use of liner bags is optional but **only compostable bags can be used**.

Here is some related information that may be useful:

- If you buy liner bags you will have to ensure the bag used has the certified "Compostable" logo. **Plastic, biodegradable or oxy-degradable bags are not accepted.**
- **Approved compostable bags designed to breakdown in a composting facility** are sold at most major grocery and hardware stores and other retailers throughout the region. Bags must have one of the following symbols on them.



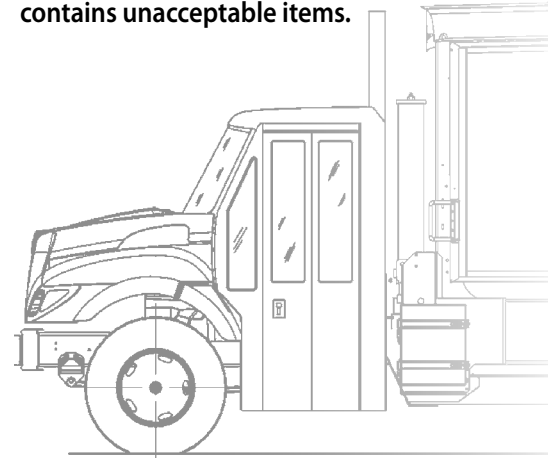
- **To help absorb moisture and keep materials from sticking**, place crumpled newspaper, a paper bag or paper towels at the bottom of your green bin or kitchen catcher.
- **If you choose not to use a liner bag**, you can wrap food waste in newspaper or use paper food bags, cereal boxes (plastic liner removed) or a paper milk carton (plastic spout removed) to collect food scraps. This, along with frequent rinsing, will help keep containers clean.

ON YOUR COLLECTION DAY - One truck, two compartments

Vehicles with two compartments will be used on scheduled garbage and food waste collection days. These "split-packer" trucks have two compartments to ensure the separation of materials. Using one truck to collect two materials at the same time will result in less vehicle emissions and no additional labour requirements for the Green Bin Program.

Contaminants such as plastic, metal and glass affect the quality of compost and reduce its value. Green bins containing unacceptable items will be tagged and not collected. You will be responsible for removing these items from your bin.

Your bin could be left behind if it contains unacceptable items.



Please don't use plastic bags, biodegradable bags or put any plastics, glass, metal or Tetra Pak containers in your green bin as this will contaminate the compost that is produced.



HELPFUL HINTS

Preventing . . . ODOURS

Some materials in the green bin or kitchen catcher may cause slight odours just as they would if placed in your garbage. Here are some tips to help prevent odours:

- **Empty your kitchen catcher frequently** by transferring contents to your green bin and keep container lids tightly closed.
- **Wash your kitchen catcher** and green bin with hot water and bio-degradable detergent.
- **To absorb moisture**, line the bottom of your containers with newspaper, a paper bag or paper towel.
- **Freeze meat, fish, poultry or bones** and put in your green bin on your collection day.
- **Sprinkle a small amount of** baking soda, garden lime or vinegar in your containers.
- Store your green bin in a secure, **cool, ventilated location**.
- Put your green bin out for collection **every week even if it is not full**.

Continue backyard composting

Please continue to compost suitable materials in your backyard composting bin. Yard and garden waste is not accepted in food waste containers.

Home composting is the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to recycle these materials and produce a beneficial soil supplement for your yard and garden. You will want to use your **green bin for meat and fish scraps, food-soiled paper products, bread** and other items that aren't suitable for backyard composting.



END PRODUCTS – COMPOST & MORE

Collection vehicles take material from your green bin to the International Composting Corporation (ICC) facility at Duke Point. **Here food waste is mixed with other organic material, including ground-up yard and garden waste, using a recipe to balance carbon and nitrogen and produce the best compost product.**

At ICC, materials are composted using an aerobic, in-vessel process that generates sufficient heat to eliminate pathogens. Methane, a potent green house gas, is not produced.

The compost produced meets the BC Organic Matter Recycling Regulation and is used by landscapers, farmers and gardeners. ICC is experimenting with producing renewable fuels from organic waste.

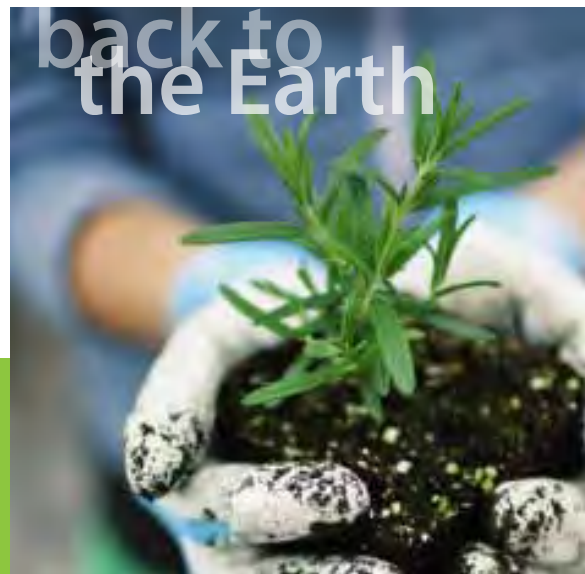
Bulk and packaged compost and compost-enriched soil produced from the Green Bin Program can be purchased at Alpine's Nanaimo Soil Mart, 2250 McGarrigle Road, Nanaimo. For more information call 250-751-1089 or visit www.alpinesupersoil.com

Avoiding conflicts with wildlife

- Store your green bin in a secure location and **ensure the lid is latched**.
- Put your green bin at the curb on the morning of your collection day. **Don't leave it out overnight.**
- **Sprinkle your food waste with garden lime**. This reduces odours that might attract wildlife.
- Use a spray bottle filled with a **bleach solution to deodorize the lid** and exterior of your green bin to prevent food odours from attracting wildlife.



back to
the Earth



What goes in the Green Bin

- Food leftovers, plate scrapings
- Meat, fish, poultry and bones
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Dairy products, butter, mayonnaise
- Egg shells
- Bread, cereal, grains
- Pasta, rice, pizza
- Baked goods, candies
- Soiled paper towels and tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging
- Food soiled cardboard and pizza boxes
- Wax coated paper and cardboard
- Used paper cups and plates
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Ice cream, milk & cream cartons
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- Houseplants, cut and dried flowers
- Nuts and shells
- Compostable bags (must be certified compostable)

yes.

...and what does not.

no.

NO PLASTICS such as

- X Plastic bags & wrap
- X Plastic straws and creamers,
- X Plastic containers, utensils, plates
- X Bread clips or ties
- X Styrofoam trays and packaging
- X Plastic liner bags (cereal, cracker, chips, cookies, pet food etc.)
- X Biodegradable or degradable bags

NO METALS such as

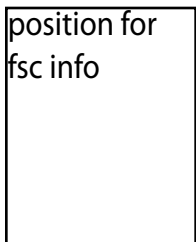
- X Foil wrap, pouches and pie plates
- X Foil butter or food wrap
- X Metal cans, hangers, twist ties

OTHER MATERIALS such as

- X Yard and garden waste
- X Glass jars
- X Drink boxes, juice and other Tetra Pak containers
- X Make-up remover pads, cotton swabs and balls
- X Dental floss, rubber bands
- X Diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products
- X Textiles, dryer sheets and lint
- X Cigarettes and butts
- X Vacuum contents and bags
- X Pet feces or cat litter
- X Hair



Certified compostable logos



Thank you for participating!

Using your green bin and maximizing your curbside recycling will help you to make the transition to one container of garbage being collected every other week.

Instead of going to the landfill, your food and kitchen waste is turned into value-added products – compost and nutrient-enriched soil. That extends the life of the region's only landfill and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and will ultimately save money.

GREEN BIN PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about the Green Bin Program, to replace lost or damaged containers, report missed pick-ups or to inquire about replacement collection schedules call:

City of Nanaimo, Public Works
Ph. 250-758-5222 www.nanaimo.ca

Green Bin Program resources
www.beyondcomposting.ca

