

ORGANICS COLLECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I use bags to throw out my organics?

Bags are not required for organics disposal. If residents wish to use bags to dispose of their organics, **compostable bags must be used**. These bags are made of organic materials and break down at the same rate as other organic material and they can easily be identified by our composting contractor. They are available at Fresh Market, Canadian Tire, Walmart and many other stores. The Town will be providing small kitchen bins with lids designed to control odor for each resident, as well as 10 small bags to get you started. These bins will fit on your counter or under your sink to allow easier disposal of food scraps. These small bags can then be placed in your large bin.

Is my bin going to be big enough for my grass clippings?

The 65 gallon cart does hold about 4 standard garbage bags full of waste and with a weekly collection, is typically sufficient for most residents to handle grass volume during the summer months. It is recommended that you not always remove all the clippings from your lawn, by leaving your grass clippings on your lawn, you are returning much needed moisture and nutrients to the soil in your yard. **NO PLASTIC BAGS IN BINS!** If any resident feels they need an additional bin, they may arrange for one at a monthly charge. Please contact the administration office to inquire. The Lagoon site will be opened every second Saturday from 8am-noon, commencing May 4th, for **trees and branches only**. All leaves and grass will go in the green bin for pick up.

Will the material in the Green Organics Cart smell?

The Green Organic Cart will be picked up weekly in the summer months (May to November), which should minimize any potential for odor developing in the carts. Some tips to reduce potential odor issues include:

- • Wrap food scraps in newspaper or paper towels
- • Use compostable bags. These are not required but can be used, if preferred.
- • Keep the Green Organics Cart in a shaded area so it is not exposed to the sun.
- • Ensure the lid on your Green Organics Cart is closed
- • Try adding a small amount of baking soda or lime to the Green Organics Cart

Will the Green Organics Cart attract animals or insects?

The Green Organics Carts are sturdy and have a lid that closes. Keeping the lid closed will deter animals and insects better than a standard garbage bag.

Will the organics freeze inside my cart in the winter?

It is possible that some material will freeze during the winter, but this will not damage the cart or the automated truck. To minimize material freezing to the inside of the cart, try the following:

- • Line the cart with newspaper, pizza boxes or cardboard
- • Wrap food scraps in newspaper, paper towel or soiled cardboard

Can I opt out of the Green Organics Cart program?

- No. In order for the Town to implement an effective waste reduction program, each household that currently receives curbside waste collection will have the opportunity to utilize the Green Organics Cart as well.
- The Green Organics Cart accepts items such as soiled pizza boxes, meat products, bones and dairy products that typically cannot be added into backyard composters. This will enable households to compost a wider variety of materials and reduce the amount of garbage we send to landfill.

How do I put my Organics cart out for collection?

When putting your cart out for collection remember:

- All organics must fit inside the cart with the lid closed.
- Materials left outside the cart will not be collected.
- Carts must weigh less than 90 kg or 200 lbs otherwise the cart cannot be lifted and emptied.
- Place it at least one metre from all other objects (other carts, recycling, trees, basketball nets etc.) for safe collection.
- Make sure to put nothing but organics in the organics cart. If other items are included, the cart will not be emptied. Other items will contaminate the composting process.

Where will I put all my leaves in the Fall?

The Town is currently looking at arranging for a leaf pick up each Fall to ensure all leaves are disposed of properly. Stay tuned in the upcoming newsletters for information.

Will residents be able to use the composted dirt?

Starting in Spring of 2020, once a year we will have a truckload of compost dirt placed at the Lagoon site that residents can access for their gardens.

Why do the bins state no Oil or grease, yet the list allows for oil?

SMALL amounts of oils that are soaked up in materials (around a cup full) are permitted in the bins, this only includes cooking oils and grease.

Soiled pizza boxes and food containers are included, does this mean we can compost cardboard?

No. Only cardboard that has been soiled from greasy, cheesy foods should go in the green bins. This material is actually beneficial for composting. All other cardboard should go in the blue bags for recycling.



What items are acceptable in the Organics cart?

Ashes (cooled)	Corn cobs	Grass Clippings	Pizza/soiled boxes
Bakery goods	Dairy products	Grease (kitchen)	Popcorn bags
Beef & scraps	Dead animals (small)	Gum	Popsicle sticks
Bones	Dead plants/flowers	Hair	Pork & scraps
Bread	Dirt(small amt)	Kabob skewers	Pumpkins
Cheese	Dirty paper	Kitchen scraps	Rice
Chicken & scraps	Dog waste	Leaves	Sauces/spreads
Candy	Dryer lint	Meat/bones	Sawdust/wood chips
Cardboard (soiled)	Eggs/shells	Oil (cooking)	Seafood/shells
Cat Litter	Facial Tissue	Oily/fatty foods	Seeds/nuts
Cat waste	Feathers	Paper(shredded)	String (cotton)
Cereal	Fish & parts	Paper bags	Tea bags
Coffee filters/grounds	Flour/dough	Paper (soiled)	
Cooking oil	Fruit/peelings	Pasta	
Cotton balls	Garden waste	Peanut shells	

The **top 3 incorrect items** placed in organic bins are plastic bags, AA batteries and plastic containers.



Any other questions regarding the Organics program can be directed to GFL at 780-444-8805.



RECYCLING



ORGANICS



LANDFILL



Rigid Plastic #1 & #2
Jugs with screw top lids
Tubs with Snap On Lids



No Styrofoam



Mixed Paper/ Paperboard



Tin Cans



Deposit Items Including:
Mix Containers
Pop & Beer
Cans and Bottles
Tetra Paks



No Straws/
Plastic Utensils



No Plastic Bags



No Hazardous
Waste



Food Waste



Food Soiled Paper



Plants/Grass
Clippings



Certified Compostable
Bags



Small Quantities
of Pet Waste



No Plastic Bags



No Glass or Metal



No Diapers



No Rubber Bands
Twist Ties or
Produce Stickers



Styrofoam & Rubber



Film Plastic



Single Use Packaging



Coffee Cups



Non Refundable
Glass



Fabric



No Recyclables



No Organics



No Hazardous
Waste

BE
CART 
SMART

STOP. THINK. SORT.

csredmonton@gflenv.com



Items may be sorted differently depending on your community