

A guide to:

# CURBSIDE FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

Whether you are a first time composter, or a seasoned pro, you will need to make a plan about how your household will be collecting food scraps.

Learn more about Curbside Food Waste Collection at [boston.gov/food-waste](https://boston.gov/food-waste)

CITY of **BOSTON**

2173-09



Public Works



Garbage to Garden



## STEP 1: MAKE A PLAN

To start we recommend that you:

- Store your food scraps in the kitchen container included in your starter kit on your kitchen countertop, or under your kitchen sink.
- Keep your container where you produce most of your compostable waste.
- Bring your compostable waste outside to your curbside bin every day and be sure to clean it regularly.
- Select a good place for your curbside bin. Focus on accessibility, shade, and shelter from rain and snow. Taking good care of your bin will help prevent pests and odors.

Remember, you are not making more organic waste than before, just sending it to a different bin. Separating your food scraps actually keeps your trash from producing odor. So, you can take your trash out less often and not worry about stinky, dripping, trash.

## STEP 2: LINE YOUR CURBSIDE BIN

Line your bin to ensure it can be emptied. You can use a double-lined paper bag, BPI, CMA, or OK Compost certified compostable bin liners. If you line your countertop bin, **you do not** need to also line your curbside bin.

**You may not use plastic bags to line your bins.**

## STEP 3: START COLLECTING FOOD SCRAPS

Avoid contamination by only throwing out compostable materials in your bin. There is a full list of accepted materials included in your starter kit. **Contaminated bins will not be collected.**

## STEP 4: PUT YOUR CURBSIDE BIN OUT FOR PICKUP

Make sure your bin is on the sidewalk, and not blocked by garbage bins, trees, etc. on your collection day. To view your collection day, download the Trash App.

## STEP 5: GIVE YOURSELF A PAT ON THE BACK

Composting your food scraps reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills. It also helps the environment by enriching soil, giving new plants nutrients to grow. Go you!

## REPEAT THE STEPS EACH WEEK

If you need any help or have any questions, visit us at [boston.gov/food-waste](https://boston.gov/food-waste)

Your food scraps will be used to make nutrient-rich compost and renewable energy! All food scraps collected curbside will either be composted via turned windrows in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, or recycled at the CORE facility in Charlestown.

For more information, visit us at [boston.gov/food-waste](https://boston.gov/food-waste)

## ACCEPTED ITEMS (including all food items):



**COFFEE GROUNDS AND FILTERS**



**NON SYNTHETIC TEA BAGS**



**EGGS, EGGSHELLS, AND EGG CARTONS**



**GRAINS, PASTA, AND BREAD**



**WAX AND PARCHMENT PAPER**  
Unless certified compostable



**FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**  
Remove stickers



**DAIRY**  
Yogurt, ice cream, cheese, and butter



**PET BEDDING**  
From rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, hamsters, and birds. No dog or cat.



**COOKING OIL AND GREASE**  
Put liquid oil in a separate sealed container on top of bin.



**MEAT AND SEAFOOD**  
Bones, shells, and raw meat



**FOOD SOILED PAPER AND SERVICEWARE**



**STOVE, GRILL, AND FIREPLACE ASH**  
Please tie off bag



**HOUSE PLANTS AND FLOWERS**



**COOKIES, CAKE, AND CANDY**



**NUT AND COCONUT SHELLS**



**HAIR, FUR, AND FEATHERS**



**PET FOOD**

## ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:



**PLASTIC:**  
Cups, containers, food and candy wrapper, plastic wrap, etc



**PLASTIC BAGS:**  
Shopping bags, garbage bags, produce bags, chip bags, etc.



**CARTONS:**  
Milk, juice, ice cream, broth, and soup containers



**TAKE OUT CONTAINERS AND CUPS**  
Unless certified compostable



**GRASS CLIPPINGS**  
Use our Leaf and Yard waste pickup service instead



**CHRISTMAS TREES AND WREATHS**  
Use our Christmas tree collections service



**USED COMPOSTABLE DIAPERS**



**LAUNDRY LINT OR DRYER SHEETS**



**MAIL, SHINY PAPER, AND MAGAZINES**



**PLASTIC AND WAXED CARDBOARD**



**SHREDDED PAPER**



**TEXTILES**



**CHEMICALLY SOILED MATERI-**



**PET WASTE**  
Dog or cat waste



**RUBBER BANDS, TWIST TIES, AND STAPLES**



**PRODUCE STICKERS**



**MEAL BOX INSULATION**



**PACKING PEANUTS**



**DEAD ANIMALS**

We accept the following soiled items. Please no chemical or cleaner soil.

- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper towel and toilet paper tubes
- Brown paper bags (for lining bins)
- Compostable tableware
- Newspaper (for wrapping food, recycle otherwise)
- Cardboard pizza boxes (stacked under your curbside bin)
- Tissues (no bodily fluids)

## KEEP IN MIND

Compostable products must be BPI, CMA, OR OK Compost certified. Items that say biodegradable, compostable, or astm-6400 alone are not accepted. When in doubt, find out, or leave it out!

## CONTAINER AND BIN CARE

In your Curbside Food Waste Collection starter kit, you received a kitchen container, curbside bin, a roll of compostable liners, and instructional materials.

You are responsible for the maintenance and care of your kitchen container and purchase of new compostable liners.

Good maintenance of your container and bin will help eliminate unwanted smells or pests.

### KITCHEN CONTAINER CARE TIPS:

- Keep your container on your kitchen counter or under your sink
- Line your container with BPI, CMA, or OK Compost certified compostable bags or brown paper bags
- Keep your container out of direct sunlight
- Sprinkle baking soda in the bottom of your container
- Wrap up meat and fish in newspaper or brown paper bags

### CURBSIDE BIN CARE TIPS:

- Latch your curbside bin to keep out liquid and unwanted pests
- If you do not line your kitchen container, line your curbside bin with BPI, CMA, or OK Compost certified compostable bags or brown paper bags
- Tie off bag before collection
- Keep curbside bin out of direct sunlight
- Rinse bin after collection

## STINKY KITCHEN CONTAINER

To keep your kitchen container from smelling and attracting flies, be sure to:

- Empty your kitchen container more frequently and rinse regularly
- You can use a double-lined paper bag, BPI, CMA, or OK Compost certified compostable bin liners. If you line your countertop bin, you do not need to also line your curbside bin. **You may not use plastic bags to line your bins.**
- Sprinkle some baking soda into the bottom of the container
- If you have space, consider keeping your food scraps in the freezer

## STINKY CURBSIDE BIN

If you are experiencing unpleasant smells and maggots, be sure to:

- Rinse your bin after collection.
- Double line your bin with compostable bags or brown paper bags. Place some newspaper at the bottom of the bin and sprinkle some baking soda. This will help to absorb any smelly liquid
- Keep your bin out of the sun, in a cool dry place.

## ANIMALS

Your curbside bin does latch, but persistent pests may be able to get it open. To keep animals out you can reinforce the lid with an additional strap. There are universal garbage can lid locks online, or you can use a bungee cord. Try sprinkling a bit of chili powder on the lid of your container, most pests don't like the smell.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

With any questions or service requests, please contact the Garbage to Garden support team at **617-977-4547**. Available anytime Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., or email **[info@garbagetogarden.org](mailto:info@garbagetogarden.org)**

Boston's Curbside Food Waste Collection is provided in partnership with Save That Stuff, Inc, and Garbage to Garden, Inc. To learn more about Save that Stuff, Inc, and Garbage to Garden, Inc, visit **[boston.gov/curbside-food-waste](https://boston.gov/curbside-food-waste)**

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Pa traduson, vizita | 如需查阅译文，请访问网站 |  
如需查閱譯文，請瀏覽網站 | Pou jwenn tradiksyon,  
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