

Food Waste FAQ

Why is my Food Waste/Garbage or Food Waste/Recyclables collected by the same truck at the same time?

The trucks used for collection have two compartments for materials. Each week one compartment is designated for Food Waste and one compartment for either garbage or recyclables. Although it may look like all of your curbside materials are mixing, they are kept separate and unloaded in the appropriate locations.

I already use a back yard composter, do I have to use my Food Waste Cart?

Back yard composting is a great way to discard of kitchen scraps, and we encourage homes to continue to compost in their own yards. However, there are many items that can go in your Food Waste Cart that do not usually go in a residential composter including:

- Meat and bones
- Fat and grease (let solidify first and then scrape into compost bucket/bin)
- Dairy products
- Dry and cooked pasta
- Soiled paper and cardboard (ex. greasy pizza box or take-out food bag)
- Paper towel, napkins, facial tissue
- Waxed and parchment paper
- Wood items such as toothpicks, popsicle sticks and chop sticks
- Any other food items that are leaving your composter too wet or too dry.

Use the Food Waste Cart for all of the organic items that you cannot put in your composter to further decrease the amount of garbage in your bi-weekly collection.

Can I set out Food Waste in my kitchen catcher instead of the green bin?

No, food waste must be set out for collection in the Town of Creston branded green bins. The kitchen catchers are not made for curbside collection and easily break apart or are missed all together due to their small size. The green bins are easier for the collectors to lift and tip, and show that you're paying for the curbside collection service.

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Can I put Yard Waste in my Food Waste Cart?

Yard waste is not permitted in the Food Waste Carts. The Town provides three (3) yard waste collection events each year as a part of the Curbside Collection program – one in the spring and two in the fall.

Yard waste can be taken to the Creston Landfill (1501 Mallory Road) at any time during their normal operating hours. Yard waste taken to the landfill will be charged at the going rate for 'Yard and Garden Waste'. Effective March 1, 2023, the rate for yard waste is \$2.75 per 120L container (first 2 containers), \$5.50 for loads $\leq 2.5\text{m}^3$ and \$55.00/ tonne for loads $>2.5\text{m}^3$. These rates may be amended from time to time by the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

During the months of April and October (only) the Creston Landfill accepts Yard & Garden Waste for FREE. This practice is subject to the conditions placed upon it by the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Where does the curbside food waste go?

The food waste is sent to a composting facility at the Creston Landfill (1501 Mallory Road) that is owned and operated by the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Do I have to line my Food Waste Cart/kitchen catcher?

No, you do not have to use liners for your food waste. However, because food waste will stick to your cart, it is recommended you do so. Should you choose to line your Cart or kitchen catcher, you must use a material that is also compostable including: newspaper or compostable paper bags. **Biodegradable and compostable plastic bags are NOT PERMITTED.**

What do I do if I have more food waste than the one (1) cart per week that we are allowed?

If you have extra food waste on your collection day that will not fit in your Food Waste Container, you may place an extra re-usable container that is clearly identifiable as containing food waste or Kraft paper bag of food waste at the curb

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for collection with an **EXTRA Bag Tag**. Extra containers do not have to be a Green Cart – you could use a small garbage can or storage tote for example, as long as an **EXTRA Bag Tag** is attached and it contains a maximum of 18 Kg (40 lbs) of material. These tags can be purchased at Town Hall for \$2 each. If using Kraft paper bags, it would be a good idea to double bag your extra organic material to ensure your bag does not break upon collection.

If you find you are consistently over the limit of weekly food waste collection, you may wish to purchase a second food waste container and service. This is a great option for households with large families. If you decide this is the right option for you, you will be charged a one-time fee of \$30, plus applicable taxes for the new Creston branded green cart, and \$74.00 per year (2023 Rate, subject to annual rate review) will be added to your utility tax bill for the additional weekly collection. \$74.00 per year works out to be an extra \$1.42 per week for the extra collection.

What do I do if my Food Waste Cart breaks?

You are responsible for your Food Waste Cart. The Town is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged carts. If you accidentally damage or lose your cart you may purchase a new cart at Town Hall. You will be charged a fee of \$50, plus applicable taxes for each new Creston branded green cart.

At the discretion of the Town, carts with manufacturing defects may be replaced at no charge if the damaged cart is returned to Town Hall.

Your Food Waste Cart is proof that you are eligible for the Food Waste collection service. Failure to have the cart at the curb on collection day will result in your food waste not being collected.

Can I put pet waste or kitty litter in my food waste container?

No, pet waste is not accepted in the curbside food waste collection. Please double bag all pet waste and cat litter and put it in your garbage.

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Are there other communities that have curbside organics collection?

Yes! There are many municipalities in BC that collect organics as a part of their curbside collection program.

There are case studies that outline programs in a number of municipalities and can be found on the Government of British Columbia website under Residential Organic Waste Diversion:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/food-and-organic-waste/organic-waste-diversion/residential-organic-waste-diversion>

What happens if I miss a Food Waste collection day?

If you do not get your food waste collected on your collection day you can:

- Purchase **EXTRA Bag Tag(s)** to put out additional bag(s) of food waste on your next collection day or,
- Take your Food Waste to the Landfill. There will be a public drop-off bin for Food Waste at the Landfill. Food Waste taken to the Landfill will be charged a per-container fee of \$2.25 (first four 120L containers).

If you do miss your collection day, consider freezing your food waste (if possible) until the next collection.

Can I put plastic items labelled "biodegradable" or "compostable" in my curbside Food Waste Cart?

No, certification standards currently allow a plastic to be called "biodegradable" or "compostable" if it breaks down to a specified degree, over a minimum period of time, when exposed to a certain minimum temperature and other physical conditions. However, the composting facility at the Creston Landfill does not operate under conditions that sufficiently biodegrade many of these products. To be safe, leave them out of your food waste cart and place them in your garbage.

PLA (Polylactic Acid) liners claim to be "compostable", why can't they be used?

PLA (Polylactic Acid) plastic is made of plant-based renewable resources such as potato starch, corn, bamboo or sugarcane. As a result, PLA plastic is often hailed

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as an eco-friendly packaging solution. PLA plastics are still “plastic” and require up to 24 months to breakdown under ideal composting conditions. Only a handful of facilities specialize in composting of degradable plastics and unfortunately, at this time, Creston’s composting facility is not one of them. Therefore, they are not permitted for use in Creston’s food waste collection stream.



Compostable plastic that has been in a compost pile for 18-24 months

If I can't determine if an item is compostable, should I put it in my curbside Food Waste Cart anyway?

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

We can appreciate wanting to do your best to keep compostable materials out of the landfill, however contamination is difficult to separate and leads to clean compostable material being sent to the landfill.

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Please also see the information about **compostable plastics** in the Recycling FAQ section.

Get the **Creston Recycles** app on your mobile device to assist you with what goes where.