

Bears and your Green Can!

Food scraps in your waste can attract bears!

Help reduce bear-human interactions by following these 4 simple steps:

- 1 If you have a bear resistant bin, use this as your Green Can!

These bins are heavy so your collectors will need to lift out your food scraps and yard trimmings by hand. Bundle your food scraps in newspaper or paper bags (no more than 4 bundles). Gather your yard trimmings into small bundles (tie with twine or string) or put them in a paper bag.

- 2 Always store food scraps in a secure enclosure or bear resistant bin.

- 3 Never set out food scraps on the curbside in Kraft-type paper bags or plastic bags; it should always go into your secure Green Can.

- 4 Avoid a smelly bin by freezing odorous items until collection day, lining the bottom of your can with newspaper, rinsing food-contaminated items and sprinkling baking soda in your can. Allow grass yard trimmings to dry before placing them in the can.

Remember, only put out your Green Can **ON THE MORNING OF PICKUP** between 5:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. and don't put any plastic in your can.

For more information

visit www.coquitlam.ca/bearaware.

For information on purchasing the bear resistant bins the City has for sale, contact 604-927-3500.

If you have questions or require more information visit www.coquitlam.ca/recycle or call Engineering Customer Service at 604-927-3500.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get my Green Can sticker?

Phone us and we'll send one out to you! Or simply pick up your free Green Can sticker from any of these locations:
City Centre Aquatic Complex, City Hall, Chimo Pool, Coquitlam Animal Shelter, Pinetree Community Centre & Poirier Library.

Where can I get a kitchen container?

Containers may be purchased from local hardware stores or homemade from large plastic containers such as ice cream buckets.

Why can't I use compostable or biodegradable plastic bags to line my kitchen container and bin?

These plastic bags aren't able to compost or biodegrade in the composting facility. So remember – no plastic in your Green Can!

What if I have too much for my can?

Put all your excess food scraps in your can. Place excess yard trimmings in additional labelled cans or paper bags (call 604-927-3500 for extra stickers).

What if I don't have yard trimmings to put in the can?

That's fine. Just wrap your food scraps in newspaper or place in a paper bag and add to your can.

Should I continue with backyard composting?

Yes, this is still the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to dispose of food scraps. Use your Green Can for food that cannot go into the backyard composter, such as meat, bones, fish, dairy and bread.

Recycle Food Scraps In Your

Green Can



What is the Green Can Program?

Turn your food scraps and yard trimmings into compost by putting them all in one can for recycling!

Waste collection trucks take the contents of your Green Can to a regional composting facility where it is turned into high-quality compost for landscapers and farmers.

The benefits of using a Green Can:

Your garbage bin will shrink

Put food waste in your Green Can and see how much less your garbage bin weighs!

Turn food into compost

Prevent food waste and yard trimmings from wasting away in landfills by turning them into a resource we can use instead.

Save money

It's cheaper to compost food than to send it to the landfill!

It's collected first!

To get food scraps off the curb faster, the Green Can is collected by our trucks first, before garbage.

We can reach our target

Using your Green Can will help the City reach the region's waste diversion goal of 70% by 2015.

Who can use the Green Can program?

The Green Can Program is available for all residents currently receiving the City of Coquitlam's curbside garbage and recycling collection service.

Using your Green Can is as easy as A, B, C!

A Collect all your food scraps in your kitchen food scraps container.

B Empty your food scraps container into your Green Can, along with any yard trimmings. Make sure there is a Green Can sticker attached to your can.

C Place your Green Can at the curb/lane weekly, with the Green Can sticker facing out, between 5:30 a.m.–7:30 a.m. on your collection day.



Get the right size!

Green Cans should be between 45 - 121 liters in size and weigh less than 20kg (44 lbs) when full. Additional yard trimmings can be set out in multiple Green Cans or paper yard trimming bags.

What Can I put in my Green Can?

YES - these items belong in my Green Can

- ✓ Meat, poultry, fish, shellfish and bones
- ✓ Egg and dairy products
- ✓ Table and plate scraps
- ✓ Vegetables, salad and fruit
- ✓ Bread, dough, pasta, grains
- ✓ Coffee grounds
- ✓ Paper towels, napkins and plates
- ✓ Soiled pizza delivery boxes
- ✓ Coffee filters and tea bags

Yard trimmings

- ✓ Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, brush and branches
- ✓ Plants and flowers
- ✓ Plant, tree or hedge prunings less than 7.5cm (3") in diameter and no more than 1m (3') in length
- ✓ Christmas trees cut in half (no flocking, tinsel, decorations or stands)

NO—these items are not for my Green Can

- ✗ Coffee cups, paper cartons or take-out containers
- ✗ Plastics (including biodegradable or compostable plastic bags)
- ✗ Glass, latex or metals (including foil)
- ✗ Cork or Styrofoam
- ✗ Wire, twist ties, rubber bands or netting
- ✗ Grease, oil or liquids
- ✗ Animal waste or carcasses
- ✗ Soil, sod and rocks
- ✗ Dirty diapers and other personal hygiene items