



Debunking Myths

GREEN BIN PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Question: Can only food scraps go in my Green Bin?

- **Answer:** No. While food scraps are a major component, other organic materials such as seafood shells and meat bones, soiled napkins, compostable paper packaging, coffee grounds, tea bags, microwave popcorn bags, pet/human hair, and other organic items can also go in.

Question: Will my Green Bin smell?

- **Answer:** The food waste that you are currently placing in your garbage will go in the Green Bin. Keeping the lid closed, as well as the weekly collection of the Green Bin, will reduce the breakdown of food waste and prevent the build-up of odours. Most Green Bin Programs in Ontario offer weekly collection for this reason.
- Food waste and organics can be tied in compostable bags and placed in your Green Bin to minimize odours and spills, similar to garbage. The Green Bin will stay shut with the gravity lock to help keep flies/pests out.

Question: Will my Green Bin attract pests?

- **Answer:** The gravity lock on the Green Bin will keep the lid secured to the Bin; so it is important to 'click' the lid shut and store the Green Bin upright.
- The design of the Green Bin and the gravity lock prevent contents from spilling which helps to keep pests out.
- Although raccoons are intelligent, the mechanics of the gravity lock are too intricate for them to turn. Video / Raccoon versus Green Bin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaecgjK2TCQ>

Question: Are all Green Bin Programs the same?

- **Answer:** No. Green Bin Programs are different across Ontario. Use the EWSWA's Acceptable Materials List to know how to use the program properly. <https://www.ewswa.org/curbside-collection/green-bin/>

Question: Food waste and organic materials break down in the landfill; why should I use my Green Bin?

- **Answer:** While food waste does decompose in a landfill without oxygen, it releases methane gas, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. By using the Green Bin, you help reduce harmful emissions, spare landfill space, and support a sustainable future.

Question: Can I use a liner in my Kitchen Catcher or Green Bin?

- **Answer:** Yes, but only paper bags, yard waste bags, newspaper and certified compostable bags that are BPI/BNQ-approved are acceptable liners for your Kitchen Catcher and Green Bin. These materials will completely break down during processing, leaving no residue in the fertilizer for future crops.
- If you're purchasing liners, look for products with these certification logos:



Question: Can I put any biodegradable item in my Green Bin?

- **Answer:** No. You may find some products, such as bags, coffee pods, and wraps, labelled as biodegradable or “accepted in the municipal collection.” These are not accepted because they don’t break down completely. Follow the Acceptable Materials List to ensure a high-quality fertilizer is produced from the material you put in your Green Bin. (<https://www.ewswa.org/curbside-collection/green-bin/>)

Question: Are the Green Bin Program and Backyard Composting the same?

- **Answer:** No. Backyard composting is a great way to produce compost and keep fruit and vegetable scraps out of the garbage! The Green Bin will accept many materials including bones, meat, dairy, fats, and oils that can’t go in a composter. The Green Bin is a great way to keep these items out of the garbage.

Question: I’m short on space, so where am I going to put the Green Bin?

- **Answer:** While adding the Green Bin does take up some space, using it will reduce your garbage, helping you to manage your waste. You may have to make some room for the Green Bin, but typical municipal waste programs have three bins: garbage, recycling, and the Green Bin.

Question: Should I still use my Green Bin even if I live on a farm?

- **Answer:** Yes. Even if you live on a farm, you may have Food Waste and Organic materials going into your garbage that shouldn’t be. Research shows that many items that end up in the garbage can go in the Green Bin: soiled napkins, compostable containers, paper takeout containers, pet or human hair, houseplants, oils, etc.

Question: Food waste ends up in the landfill anyway, why should I use the Green Bin?

- **Answer:** Food Waste and Organics are valuable resources and should not go in the landfill. After these materials are collected, they are delivered to Seaciff Energy Corporation in Leamington, where they are processed using anaerobic digestion.* This process creates renewable energy sources (electricity that is sold to the grid) and thermal energy (for local greenhouses). It also produces a certified, nutrient-rich liquid fertilizer for growing next year’s crops! **Anaerobic digestion is a process where bacteria break down organic matter.*

Question: Where can I find cost information for the Green Bin Program?

- **Answer:** For more information on how the provincially-mandated Green Bin Program may affect your municipal taxes, please refer to the resources below:
 - City of Windsor: Windsor Green Bin Program Costs (<https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/waste-and-recycling>)
 - County of Essex: County of Essex Green Bin Billing (<https://www.countyofessex.ca/county-government/property-taxes-and-tax-rates/>)
 - If you are looking for more information about the Green Bin Program costs, refer to the EWSWA Operational Plan and Budget. (<https://www.ewswa.org/about-us/reports-and-resources/annual-reports/>)



Channel Your Inner Superhero and Grow Green With Us!

Looking For More Information:

Download the free Recycle Coach App:
For Schedule Updates



Visit:
<https://www.ewswa.org/curbside-collection/green-bin/>

Sign-up for the free EWSWA e-newsletter:
<https://www.ewswa.org/subscribe/>

Ontario Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/food-and-organic-waste-policy-statement>



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