Don't Waste Your Waste!

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

Green Bin User Guide

KOOTENAY REGION

Curbside Green Bin Program

OVERVIEW

The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary is excited to expand its successful curbside green bin collection program to Kootenay region residents!

Starting **October 2023**, homes in Trail, Rossland, Warfield, Montrose, Fruitvale, Area A and Area B - Lower Columbia/Old Glory will receive weekly curbside collection of organic kitchen scraps.

Each household will receive an 80 litre curbside collection bin and a kitchen tote for under the sink. Use this guide to learn what can and cannot go in the bin, how to bear-safe your property, prevent food waste and much more!

Curbside green bin collection starts October 2023

Questions?
Visit rdkb.com/greenbin

Or contact us at:
T. 250.368.9148 (Toll-Free: 1.800.355.7352)
Email: knowwaste@rdkb.com

May - October 2023
Education & outreach

August 2023
Delivery of green bins, kitchen totes, collection schedules & information packages

October 2023
Curbside collection begins

Why a Green Bin Program?

The Regional District is committed to managing its impact on climate change. One way it is achieving this is by focusing on "zero waste" initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Household waste is typically made up of about 42% organic material.

When organic waste is buried in a landfill, it decomposes anaerobically - without oxygen - releasing methane greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. By diverting and composting organic waste through the green bin program, we expect to see an average annual reduction of 2,225 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. That equates to 495 cars driven for one year!

Diverting organic waste from the landfill has other great benefits. It...

- Extends the life of the landfill,
- Creates compost - a nutrient-rich resource for amending soil, and
- Minimizes user fees paid for garbage disposal.

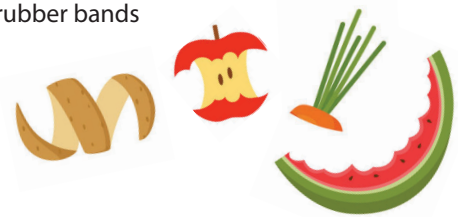
Participating in the green bin program makes sense (and cents)!

We are excited to expand our successful curbside green bin collection program to Kootenay region residents!

What Goes IN the Bin

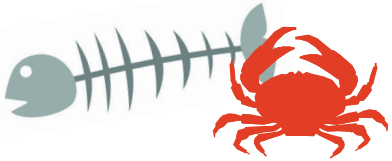
Kitchen waste, such as...

Fruit & Vegetables
Remove produce stickers, twist ties and rubber bands



Uneaten Cooked Food & Plate Scrapings

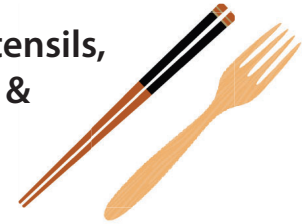
Fish & Shellfish



Meat & Bones
Raw or cooked;
Bones less than 2" diameter

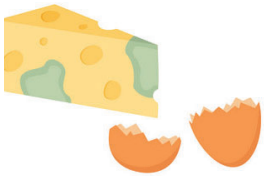
Pasta, Rice, Grains & Cereal

Wooden Utensils, Chopsticks & Toothpicks



Bread & Baked Goods

Eggs & Dairy Products

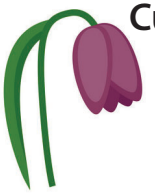


Coffee Grounds, Filters & Tea Bags
Paper filters and tea bags only - No plastic

Cooking Oil, Fats & Grease
Soak liquids in paper towel or allow to solidify before adding to the green bin

Soiled Tissue, Paper Napkins, Paper Towel (Please contain in a paper bag)

Cut Flowers



Food-Soiled Paper & Cardboard
Pizza boxes, paper plates, take-out containers (Waxed or plastic coated NOT accepted)

Nuts, Seeds & Shells

What's OUT

These materials are NOT accepted in the green bin...

- **Plastics bags or plastics of any kind, including those labelled compostable or biodegradable**
- Diapers, sanitary products
- Pet waste (dog poo, kitty litter, cage shavings)
- Yard and garden waste
- Cigarette butts, BBQ and wood ashes
- Meat/fish tray absorbent pads
- Dryer lint, dryer sheets
- Vacuum bags and contents
- Twist ties, elastic bands, produce stickers
- Coffee/tea pods, K-cups and capsules
- Disposable coffee cups (recycle with containers)
- Disposable/"flushable" wipes, Swiffer mop pads (place in the garbage - do not flush)
- Medications
- Hair, pet fur
- Wine corks
- Bones greater than 2" in diameter
- Rocks, soil
- Metal materials, including aluminum foil

Non-Acceptable Materials

No diapers, pet waste or plastic bags in the green bin!

In order to comply with provincial regulations and produce a marketable finished product, the following materials are banned from the composting facility:

- Diapers and sanitary products
- Pet waste, including dog waste and kitty litter
- Plastics bags, including those labelled compostable or biodegradable
- Plastics or metal of any kind – including coffee pods, disposable cups, twist ties, elastic bands, plastic packaging, face masks, even produce stickers on fruit and vegetables! These materials do not break down in the composting process and contaminate the finished compost, making the whole truckload unusable and destined for the landfill.

Be Bear Aware!

We live in bear country and that comes with the responsibility of taking action to prevent human-bear conflict. The single best way to help keep the public and bears safe is by ensuring that attractants, such as garbage, pet food and birdseed, are securely stored.

The standard 80 litre green bins distributed to residents free of charge by the RDKB are critter-resistant (to raccoons, rodents, etc.) but not bear-resistant. With this in mind, it's important that you store and manage your green bin properly. Following are some tips on how to bear-safe your green bin, garbage and property...

Ensuring that attractants, such as garbage, pet food and birdseed, are securely stored is the single best way to help keep the public and bears safe.

Under the BC Wildlife Act (Section 33.1), the public is legally responsible to secure waste and other attractants away from dangerous wildlife.

TO REPORT HUMAN- WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS WHERE PUBLIC SAFETY MAY BE AT RISK, CALL THE CONSERVATION OFFICER 24-HOUR HOTLINE

1-877-952-7277

RAPP
Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24-Hr Hotline:
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
rapp.bc.ca

How to Secure Your Green Bin from Bears

- Store your garbage, recycling and green bins in a secure building when not out for collection, e.g. in a closed, locked garage or shed, even if empty – bins will hold a residual smell.
- If a bin is stored outside, anchor it to a post using a cable so that it can't be dragged away.
- Place bins at the roadside only on the morning they are collected – never the night before.
- Take it out to the curb *every* week, even if you only have a small amount of organics in the bin.

TOP TIP!

- Minimize odours by freezing meat, fish and other smelly food scraps, and don't put them in the green bin until collection day.

- Keep bins clean... see 'Tips to Reduce the "Yuck" Factor' on page 11.
- **Certified bear-resistant green bins** are available for purchase, through our bear bin trade-in program, for RDKB residents who live in bear-frequented areas and are unable to keep their bins secured. If you are interested in purchasing a bear-resistant green bin, please contact us at knowwaste@rdkb.com or call 250.368.9148 (Toll-Free: 1.800.355.7352).

Set out your bins by 7:30 a.m. on your collection day and bring them in after collection as soon as possible. DO NOT put them out the night before.

Be Bear Aware!

Other Ways to Bear-Safe Your Yard

Put meat, fish, bones, dairy, grease, fat, grains and fruit in your green bin - never in your backyard compost bin.

Don't forget your blue box recyclables - they also smell delicious to bears! Rinse containers and store your blue box inside until collection day.

Feed pets indoors and store pet food in a secure building.

Use bird feeders only during the winter months, when bears are hibernating, or take them in at night. Clean up spilled bird seed from around your feeder.

Pick ripe and fallen fruit daily.

Clean your barbeque after each use by burning off uncooked food and emptying the drip pan.

Provide a secure enclosure for livestock and consider installing electric perimeter fencing. Store feed in airtight containers in a secure location and clean up any uneaten food at the end of each day.

For more tips on how to manage attractants and prevent conflict with wildlife, visit WildSafeBC at... **wildsafebc.com**

Tips to Reduce the "Yuck" Factor

- Many "yuck" problems are caused by moisture content in food. Drain your food scraps before placing in the bin.
- Keep the bottom of your bins dry by lining them with crumpled newspaper, boxboard, or cardboard.
- Use a cellulose-lined paper bin liner such as the Bag to Earth brand bag or a paper yard waste bag. **DO NOT use plastic bags to line your bins, even if labelled compostable or biodegradable.**
- Wrap food waste in paper towel, newspaper, or boxboard before placing it in your bins.
- Freeze smelly food scraps such as meat, fish and bones in newspaper or paper bags and place in your curbside bin on collection day.
- In the summer, reduce fruit flies by storing your kitchen tote in the freezer or fridge. If storing in the freezer, be sure to wrap your food waste or use a paper liner, so that it doesn't freeze to the bin.
- Alternate layers of kitchen scraps with layers of soiled paper products.
- Keep the lid tightly closed to keep out flies.

- Use vinegar, salt or garden lime to kill maggots.
- Clean your bins regularly with mild soap and water.
- Spray vinegar or sprinkle baking soda in the bin to reduce odours.
- Put your bin out for pick-up every week, even if it isn't full.

Many of these tips will also help if you are having trouble with food scraps freezing to your green bin. Keep it dry!

FAQs ...

Who do I contact if my green bin got missed on collection day?

Garbage and green bin curbside collection services are currently contracted out to GFL Environmental. If your bin was missed on your collection day, please call GFL at 250-367-0099.

How do I get a new or replacement green bin?

If you are new to the area or if your bin has become damaged and unusable, go to rdkb.com/greenbin and click the Quick Link "Get a Green Bin" or call us at 250-368-9148 (Toll Free: 1-800-355-7352).

I already use a backyard composter – do I have to use a green bin?

No, but there are many kitchen waste items that you can put in your green bin that should never go into your backyard composter, such as meat, fish, bones, dairy products, cooked food and soiled paper products. Putting these items into your green bin ensures that all the valuable nutrients are captured and put to good use. Don't waste your waste!

What if I only produce a small amount of food waste?

Put it out for collection anyway. This will help reduce odour and other "yuck" factors, making it less of an attractant to bears and other animals.

Do I have to line my green bin?

No, but lining your bin with either an approved bag (such as Bag to Earth), crumpled newspaper, cardboard or boxboard does help contain liquids and reduce a number of potential problems. See 'Tips to Reduce the "Yuck" Factor'.

Why can't I use compostable or biodegradable plastic bags in my green bin?

These bags do not properly compost or break down in the composting facility, resulting in a mess of plastic contamination that is difficult to remove. In order to produce a usable compost end product, the facility must meet strict provincial regulations which prohibit plastics of any kind, including those labelled compostable or biodegradable.

Can I upgrade my 80L green bin to a bear-resistant bin?

Yes. Certified bear-resistant bins are available for purchase through a trade-in program. Call us or visit rdkb.com/greenbin for more information.

I'm moving - can I take my green bin with me?

Green bins have a unique identifier tag on them that is registered to your property. **If you have a standard-issue 80L green bin** and you move - even within the RDKB - the green bin is to remain with the property. **If you purchased a 120L bear-resistant green bin**, it is yours to keep. If you move, it can be taken with you or re-sold. Please let us know if you have moved or sold your bear-resistant bin so that we can update our records.

Can I put yard and garden waste in my green bin?

No. In order to maintain proper carbon-to-nitrogen ratios at the composting facility, yard and garden waste (carbon) and food waste (nitrogen) need to be kept separate. Check with your municipality for collection events. Yard and garden waste can also be taken to the McKelvey Creek Landfill. Tipping fees apply.

Prevent Food Waste

In 2022 the National Zero Waste Council conducted research on household food waste in Canada and found that 63% of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten. For the average Canadian household that amounts to 140 kilograms of wasted food per year – at a cost of more than $1,300 per year![1]

The best way to prevent food waste is to purchase less food, store food properly, better utilize leftover food for meals, and freeze food.

[1] Source: LoveFoodHateWaste.ca

Must Watch

Check out **'Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story'** – an insightful and delightful 75 minute, made-in-Canada documentary about food waste. Available on British Columbia's Knowledge Network at knowledge.ca or at foodwastemovie.com.

Tips to Help Prevent Edible Food Loss

Plan it Out

- Plan your meals in advance (preferably a week at a time).
- Make a shopping list and check your cupboards to see what you have on hand.
- Don't make too much food. Only make what you know you will eat.

Keep it Fresh

- Keep foods fresh - organize your fridge properly.
- Know the shelf life of the products you purchase. Learn about the different types of date labelling and what they actually mean.
- Learn which foods should be refrigerated and which should not.

Use it Up

- Cook perishable foods first.
- Pack leftovers for lunch and take them to work or school the next day.
- Split and share large bundles of fresh herbs with friends or neighbours.

Preserve It

- Use your freezer - it's the easiest way to preserve food.
- Learn to make lacto-fermented foods such as sauerkraut or kimchi. It's easy to make, delicious and nutritious!
- Dehydrate or can your excess fruits and vegetables.

Visit **LoveFoodHateWaste.ca** for more tips on preventing food waste, including recipes and food storage guides.

Questions?

Visit rdkb.com/greenbin

Or contact us at:

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