

Recycling Food Waste at Home



The City of Sacramento is launching its new organics recycling program! On **July 1**, all food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings must be placed together in your organic waste container (currently your yard/green waste container). Organic waste will be collected weekly for all customers. These materials will be diverted from the landfill and processed into nutrient rich compost.

How to recycle your food waste

Use a small container or bowl to collect your food scraps. You can store it on your counter, under the sink, or in the refrigerator or freezer. When your indoor container is full, dump the contents in your organic waste container (currently your yard/green waste container)—do this the night before your collection day if possible.



WHAT GOES IN A FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION CONTAINER

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Bread, grains & pasta
- Coffee grounds
- Dairy products & eggshells
- Meat & bones
- Fish & shellfish
- Leftover food
- Coffee filters & paper tea bags
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Paper plates & takeout boxes (uncoated, no plastic or wax lining)
- Paper towels & napkins
- Wine corks (natural)



WHAT DOESN'T GO IN THE FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION CONTAINER

- Plastic & plastic bags
- Liquids
- Pet waste
- Cat litter
- Diapers
- Diseased plants
- Treated or painted wood
- Styrofoam
- Wax-coated or plastic-lined takeout containers & cups
- Wax- or foil-lined paper cartons (including juice, soup & soymilk type boxes)
- Single-use utensils
- Single-use coffee pods
- Ash or dirt



Not sure if something goes in the organics container? Check the **SacRecycle App** - available for iPhone or Android



Minimize the use of your garbage disposal

Garbage disposals increase waste that has to be treated at wastewater treatment plants, clog sewer lines and increase the amount of water used in your home.

For more information visit SacOrganics.org

Tips for preventing odor and pests

There are easy things you can do to keep your organics recycling odor and pest free both indoors and outdoors:

Indoors

- **Drain excess liquid** from food waste before discarding
- **Freeze/refrigerate scraps** before adding to the organic waste container
- **Wash container frequently** with soap and water
- **Sprinkle the inside with baking soda** to control odors
- **Use a compostable plastic or brown paper bag** to contain the scraps for disposal, or line container with food-soiled paper or newspaper

Outdoors

- **Layer items like grass, tree trimmings**, etc. on the bottom of your curbside container before adding food waste



Did you know that Californians throw away nearly 6 million tons of food scraps each year? This food waste makes up 15-20% of all landfilled material.



When organic matter goes in the landfill it creates methane, a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide.



When organic matter goes into compost or mulch, it creates healthy soil, conserves water, reduces erosion and lessens GHG emissions!