



# Green Bin User Guide

BOUNDARY/WEST BOUNDARY

SPRING 2023

## We're changing and getting better...

The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) has expanded and upgraded the composting facility at the Grand Forks Landfill. Feel good knowing that when you use your green bin, the RDKB will be creating a usable finished product with the materials! Unfortunately, some materials are no longer allowed in the green bin, including diapers, dog waste, kitty litter and cage shavings. Plastics of any kind, including bags labelled compostable and biodegradable are also not accepted. *Look inside for 'What Goes IN the Bin'.*

### 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 our composting facility:

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



\* Check inside for a guide on 'What Goes IN the Bin'.

## Why Use Your Green Bin?

Using your green bin is smart – for both your wallet and the environment.

### Reduces your disposal costs

There is no charge for residential curbside green bin collection, so by putting kitchen waste in the green bin, you will reduce your garbage and save money on bag tags.

### Extends the life of the landfill

By diverting organic waste from the landfill, you are helping conserve valuable landfill space. Landfill expansion projects are very costly and time consuming, so it makes sense (and cents!) to keep organics out.

### Reduces greenhouse gas emissions

Organic waste buried in a landfill decomposes anaerobically – without oxygen – releasing methane greenhouse gases. According to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, organic waste currently represents 40% of materials sent to municipal landfills in BC and generates 3.5% of the province's greenhouse gas emissions. By composting organic waste, greenhouse gas emissions are significantly reduced.

### It creates compost – a valuable resource!

By using your green bin, you recycle valuable nutrients into something that helps build healthy soil.



# What Goes IN the Bin

Kitchen waste, such as...

## Fruit & Vegetables

Remove produce stickers, twist ties and rubber bands



## Uneaten Cooked Food



## Bread & Baked Goods



## Tissue, Paper Napkins, Paper Towel & Powdery Material (such as flour)



*ONLY IF* contained in a paper bag

Loose materials not accepted

## Nuts, Seeds & Shells



## Fish & Shellfish

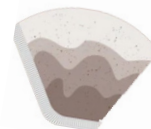


## Pasta, Rice, Grains & Cereal



## Coffee Grounds, Filters & Tea Bags

Non-plastic



## Meat & Bones

Raw or cooked;  
Bones <2" diameter



## Wooden Utensils, Chopsticks & Toothpicks



## Cut Flowers

## Food-Soiled Paper & Cardboard

Pizza boxes, paper plates, waxed paper, waxed cardboard, take-out containers (Non-plastic)



# What's OUT

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



- × Diapers, sanitary products
- × Plastics bags or plastics of any kind, including those labelled compostable or biodegradable
- × Pet waste (dog poo, kitty litter, cage shavings)
- × Yard and garden waste
- × Cigarette butts, wood and BBQ 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

# Is Your Green Bin BEAR Proof?



The standard 80 litre green bins distributed to residents free of charge by the RDKB are critter-resistant (raccoons, rodents, etc.) but not bear-resistant. With this in mind, it's important that you store and manage your bin properly so as not to attract bears.

## How to Secure Your Green Bin from Bears

- Store your garbage and green bins 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.
- Put meat, bones, fish, dairy, oils, fat and fruit in your green bin – never in your backyard compost bin.
- Minimize odours by freezing meat and other smelly food scraps, and don't put them in the green bin until collection day.
- Keep bins clean... see our 'Tips to Reduce the "Yuck" Factor'.

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

For more tips on how to make your home less attractive to bears, check out WildSafe BC at [wildsafebc.com](http://wildsafebc.com).

Set out your bins by 8:00 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!**

## 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 bin 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!



## Is There a Cost?

There is no fee to use the residential curbside green bin and recycling collection programs.

Residents in the City of Grand Forks are allowed one free garbage container per week. Additional bags must have a \$3 City of Grand Forks garbage tag, which can be purchased at the Grand Forks City Hall or Save-on-Foods. All other Boundary residents must purchase a \$3 RDKB garbage tag for every bag that is put out – *all bags must be tagged*.

The tipping fee for a single bag of garbage at an RDKB transfer station or landfill is \$4 – bag tags are **not** accepted as payment.

Check [rdkb.com/garbage](http://rdkb.com/garbage) for a list of where to buy garbage tags.



# 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 1-888-791-1190.

## 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](http://rdkb.com/greenbin) and click the Quick Link "Get a Green Bin" or call us at 250-368-0231.

## 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!

## 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 RDKB's composting facility, resulting in a mess of plastic contamination that is difficult to remove. In order to produce a usable compost end product, our new facility must now meet strict provincial regulations which prohibits plastics of any kind, including those labelled compostable or biodegradable.

## 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'.

## 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.

## Don't Waste Your Waste!

## 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. City of Grand Forks residents have a separate yard and garden waste collection schedule. Check the most recent RDKB Solid Waste Update brochure for current collection dates. All other Boundary and West Boundary residents can take yard and garden waste to the Grand Forks or West Boundary (Greenwood) landfill or any staffed transfer station. Tipping fees apply.

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

No. Green bins belong to the property. If you move - even within the RDKB - the green bin is to remain with the property.

**Please DO NOT take your green bin with you if you move.**



## How is compost made at the new facility?

Green bin waste is mixed in proper proportion with yard/garden waste and wood waste, and is piled into large mounds on an impermeable concrete pad. The pad has a system of built-in aeration tubes that allows air to be blown into and circulated throughout the mounds. Each mound is capped with a breathable GORE® cover that allows for the management of temperature, moisture level and odour. Liquid that drains from the mounds is collected and added back onto the piles to adjust moisture content.

When the air is pumped in, the GORE® Cover expands like a balloon, creating the perfect snug environment for the organic waste to break down. Temperatures in the mounds reach levels that kill pathogens and weed seeds. The first stage of the process takes about 8 weeks, after which the composted material is left to cure. It's then screened to remove large, uncomposted materials. The result is a nutrient-rich compost that is a valuable resource for improving soil.

For more information, please visit [rdkb.com/greenbin](http://rdkb.com/greenbin) or contact Environmental Services at 250.368.9148 (Toll-Free 1.800.355.7352) or [kNOwWaste@rdkb.com](mailto:kNOwWaste@rdkb.com)