

GREEN CART TIPS

General Composting Tips

Write your address on your Green Cart in permanent marker.

This will help prevent your Cart from being stolen

Set out only Green Cart to the curb for collection.

Please do not set out bags/bundles or other containers of compostable material. The driver can only empty out Green Carts safely and efficiently.



Please do not add any plastic to your Green Cart, "Compostable" bags only.

Plastics in the organics stream are very difficult and expensive to remove. Biodegradable Products Institute approved and paper bags are the only bags allowed in your Green Cart. Look for this logo:

Wrap up pet waste.

Pet waste is acceptable in the Green Cart. However, for the health and safety of your collection driver, please make sure that pet waste is wrapped up well in newspaper or paper towelling or put in a paper bag.

Capture organics in other rooms of your home.

Set a paper liner bag in your bathroom to collect tissues and hair.

Store your Green Cart in a convenient, safe location.

Your Green Cart should be placed in a well-ventilated spot that is not in direct sunlight and ideally, is not accessible to animals.

Place your Green Cart to the curb every week - even if it is not full.

This will ensure you have enough space in your Cart and reduce odours.

Handle your Green Cart gently.

This will help it to last longer. If it does get damaged, please contact the BFI Canada for a replacement.

Backyard composting is still a part of 'green' households.

If you are composting in your backyard, keep up the good work! Backyard composting is still the best and least expensive way of getting rid of fruit and vegetable scraps. Use the Green Cart for items such as meat, bones and dairy products which should not be composted in your backyard.

SEASONAL COMPOSTING TIPS

***Winter* Tips**

Sometimes the ice and snow make being green a challenge. Here are a few quick tips to make sure your Green Cart gets collected.

Place your Green Cart at street level.

Place your Green Cart at the end of your driveway or shovel a flat area close to the curb.

Make sure your Green Cart is visible.

Clear away any snow that could be blocking your green Cart from view.

***Summer* Tips**

Place your Green Cart to the curb every week - even if it is not full.

Store your Green Cart in a shaded area.

Warmer weather can increase odour problems.

Use paper to line your Cart.

Line your Green Cart with alternate layers of food waste and newspaper, paper towel, pizza boxes or buy liner bags. Lining and layering with paper helps absorb liquids and limits odours.

Freeze meat, fish scraps until your collection day.

This will limit odour problems and reduce the risk of insects in your Green Cart.

Rinse your Kitchen container daily and your Green Cart weekly.

Regular cleaning with a mild biodegradable detergent and warm water is especially important during warmer months.

Reduce the smell.

Sprinkle a small amount of baking soda, garden lime, biodegradable laundry detergent (without bleach), or vinegar in your Kitchen container and Green Cart as a deodorizer.

**Do not use pesticides in your Green Cart.**

If you do find insects in your Green Cart, do **NOT** use pesticide to get rid of them. Please use the tips listed above and insect problems should be minimal

Maggot control

Maggots are a common, naturally occurring problem with many municipal organic collection programs. Before we separated our organics into the green cart, maggots were commonly found in residents' garbage bags or containers, even if tightly sealed. While maggots cannot be guaranteed to be totally eliminated, there are preventative measures we can use to reduce the likelihood of them occurring.

Maggots are fly larvae and occur when flies lay eggs on organic waste. They typically have a 7-day life cycle with fluctuations depending on temperatures and other conditions such as moisture. Maggots are more common in warmer temperatures. To prevent maggots from occurring we have to prevent mature flies from laying eggs in the green cart by eliminating odours and reducing their access to the green cart.

GREEN CART

- Your green cart should be cleaned regularly using a solution of borax and water or vinegar and water. Alternatively, mild soaps can be used to clean your green cart. Please ensure no cleaning solution is left in the cart for collection. Wash and rinse your cart over a landscaped area such as a lawn or shrubbery, not near gutters or storm drains as the rinse water might wash down storm drains and flow directly into local creeks and waterways. Be sure your green cart is dry before use.
- Cover your green cart with black plastic sheeting such as a garbage bag during the summer months to trap heat and reduce fly survival. Flies are most active at average temperatures of 20 - 25°C and become undetectable above 45°C and below 10°C
- Flies are particularly attracted by protein sources, mostly meat and bones. Try waiting until the night before collection before placing these items in the green cart.
- When cleaning out your refrigerator, try waiting until the day before your collection day, rather than the day after.
- Certain odours will repel flies such as pennyroyal, camphor, eucalyptus, mint or bay. Try hanging some bruised leaves of these herbs in clusters or applying dabs of herbal oil to the outside of your green cart.
- Line the outer rim of the cart with salt or vinegar to prevent flies from entering the container. Sprinkle rock salt or lime inside the cart as a further preventative measure.

If you have discovered maggots in your green cart, try the following measures to control them, and then clean your green cart thoroughly after the next collection day. Be sure to leave no residue in the bottom of the cart and ensure it is dry before use.

- Cover the maggots with lime, salt or vinegar.
- Diatomaceous Earth is a natural fossil product that kills maggots, slugs, etc. Check garden centres and nurseries for availability.