

the green bin

owner's



manual

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A New Way of Looking at Waste

Welcome to the Peel Region Organics Recycling Program.

Starting April 2, 2007, residents of Peel Region will participate in a new way to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

What is Organics Recycling?

- Organic material includes such things as food waste and used tissues or paper towels (see detailed list on page 3).*
- Household organic material makes up approximately 30 per cent of all our garbage.*
- Organics recycling diverts this material from landfill by converting it into a useful end product – compost.*

Participate in this new program by following the simple steps outlined in this manual and help us reach our goal of diverting 70 per cent of waste from landfill by 2016.

Step One: Using Your Kitchen Container

- *Use the kitchen container (small beige container) you received in your green bin to collect your indoor organic material. Store the container under your kitchen sink or anywhere else in your home that is handy.*
- *For your convenience, you can line your kitchen container with newspaper, shredded paper, paper bags or certified compostable plastic bags. Non-compostable plastics, such as grocery bags and food wrap, are not permitted.*



something to consider...

- **Why can't I use regular plastic bags?**
Regular plastic bags and food wrap contaminate finished compost. As an alternative, you can use certified compostable plastic bags available at most grocery and hardware stores.



Look for this logo when purchasing compostable plastic bags.

What Goes in Your Kitchen Container

Refer to these lists to see what you can and cannot put in the green bin. You might be surprised by what goes in it!

ACCEPTABLE

Food Waste:

- Baked goods
- Bones
- Cereal
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Dairy products
- Eggs/eggshells
- Flour and grains
- Fruit
- Grease and fat
- Meat and fish (raw and cooked)
- Nuts
- Pasta and rice
- Sauces
- Tea bags and loose tea
- Vegetables

Paper Products:

- Cotton balls
- Facial tissues
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Paper towels, napkins and plates
- Shredded paper (loose)

Other Items:

- Hair
- House plants (soil removed)
- Pet fur
- Sawdust
- Wood chips/shavings

If your green bin isn't full by your scheduled collection day, feel free to top it up with yard waste (see acceptable yard waste items listed in Peel's Waste Management Guide).

X NOT ACCEPTABLE

- Aluminum foil
- Bandages
- Cigarette butts or ashes
- Clothing/textiles
- Dead animals
- Diapers
- Disposable mop sheets
- Dryer lint
- Feminine hygiene products
- Fireplace ashes
- Frozen juice containers
- Glass
- Incontinence products
- Kitty litter
- Metal
- Oils or lubricants
- Pet waste
- Plastic bags, containers and food wrap
- Polystyrene foam packaging
- Rubber products
- Takeout cups
- Twist ties
- Vacuum bags
- Wax cartons or wax paper



You can line your kitchen container with newspaper, shredded paper, paper bags or certified compostable plastic bags.



Step Two: From Kitchen Container to Green Bin

- *Once your kitchen container is full, empty the contents into your green bin.*
- *To avoid odours, rinse out your kitchen container and green bin on a regular basis.*
- *Store your green bin in the garage or outside, preferably in a shaded area.*

something to consider...

- **Backyard composting**

Organics recycling complements backyard composting by taking material that cannot be added to your backyard compost, like meat, bones and dairy products.

Step Three: Rolling the Green Bin to the Curb

- *Green bins are collected every week, according to the collection schedule in your area (see Peel's Waste Management Guide).*
- *On collection day, roll your green bin out to the curb before 7 a.m. Keep the lid properly latched to prevent pests from getting in.*
- *If your green bin isn't full by your scheduled collection day, feel free to top it up with acceptable yard waste.*
- *Where possible, put your green bin, recycling boxes and yard waste on one side of your driveway and garbage on the opposite side.*

something to consider...

- **Concerned about raccoons or other animals getting into your green bin?**

The green bin is designed to be pest-proof when securely latched. Be sure to keep your bin latched at all times and do not place your bin at the curb until the morning of

your collection day. For helpful tips refer to our website or call us at 905-791-9499.





Collection Day

One Truck, Two Compartments

- *Collection vehicles designed with two separate compartments will be used to collect Blue Box recyclables and green bin materials.*
- *Green bins containing unacceptable material will not be collected and you will be responsible for removing these items from the bin.*
- *Non-organic material contaminates the final compost, affecting its quality and end use.*

something to consider...

- **Need an extra green bin or kitchen container?**

Additional green bins and kitchen containers can be purchased at various locations throughout Peel at a cost of \$20 and \$5 respectively. Call the

Region of Peel, check our website or refer to Peel's Waste Management Guide for a list of locations.

The End Product – Compost

- *Collection vehicles take organic material to one of Peel's two composting facilities for processing.*
- *Organic material is shredded and put into large concrete tunnels for seven to 10 days.*
- *The material is then transferred to an outdoor curing facility where it is placed in long rows for 30 to 45 days.*
- *Finally, non-organic particles and oversized material are screened out to produce clean, rich finished compost.*
- *The Region's compost is Grade A quality and safe to use on vegetable gardens, flowerbeds or as mulch.*



something to consider...

- **Want to purchase compost?**

Peel's compost is competitively priced and sold to a variety of users. The compost can be purchased at Regional Community Recycling Centres. See *Peel's*

Waste Management Guide for the recycling centre nearest you or visit peelcompost.ca for more information.

Why Participate in Organics Recycling?

- *Diverting organic material from the waste stream will decrease Peel's dependency on landfill for disposal.*
- *Participating in the organics recycling program will help you meet the Region's new two-bag standard for garbage collection, which comes into effect October 1, 2007. Watch for more details later this year.*
- *Organics recycling gives waste new life by creating a useful end product – compost.*
- *You will help us reach our goal of diverting 70 per cent of our waste from landfill by 2016.*





We'd Like to Hear from You.

Questions or comments? Here's how you can reach us:

- ***Region of Peel at 905-791-9499***
- ***Residents in long distance areas of Caledon can call 905-584-2216***

You can also e-mail us at:
wasteinquiry@peelregion.ca

*Our website: ***peelregion.ca/waste****

Organics



IT'S IN THE BIN

 Region of Peel
Working for you