

# COMPOSTING, *Naturally*

A CHECKLIST FOR COMPOSTING ORGANIC WASTE



Before you put anything in your compost bin, ask yourself these 3 questions:

1. Is it food waste?
2. Is it green waste?
3. Is it soiled paper or cardboard?

If the answer is yes,

*it's compostable!*

FIND OUT ABOUT ALL OTHER COLLECTIONS  
(GARBAGE, RECYCLING, ETC.) AT [MESCOLLECTES.CA](http://MESCOLLECTES.CA)

## ACCEPTED MATERIALS

## NON-COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS

### *Kitchen waste*



### *Green waste*



### *Soiled paper or cardboard*



GOT MORE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

📞 418 439-3947, option 2

✉ [let@mrccharlevoixest.ca](mailto:let@mrccharlevoixest.ca)

*For more information*

[MESCOLLECTES.CA](http://MESCOLLECTES.CA)



## ACCEPTED MATERIALS

### *Kitchen waste*

Fruits and vegetables  
(including pits, pips and peels)  
Meat, fish, seafood and shellfish  
(including meat bones and fish bones)  
Deli meats and sausages  
Eggs and egg shells  
Tofu, tempeh, seitan and other meat alternatives  
Nuts and nut shells  
Dairy products (milk, buttermilk, yogurt, cheese)  
Pasta, breads, pastries, cereals, oatmeal, flour  
Seaweed  
Small amounts of liquids  
Ground coffee and filters, tea and herbal tea bags  
Desserts, cakes, cookies, candies, sweets  
Condiments, spreads and jams  
Fried foods, edible oils and fats  
(animal and vegetable)  
Expired foods without the packaging

### *Green waste*

Garden, yard and flower bed waste  
Grass, flowers, weeds, dandelions, cedar leaves,  
dead leaves, plants  
Wood shavings and sawdust  
Straw and hay

### *Soiled paper or cardboard*

Tissue, toilet paper, paper towels, paper napkins  
Paper or cardboard packaging soiled with food  
or used to package food:  
Pizza boxes, pastry boxes or bags, cardboard  
boxes and fast food papers, cardboard plates,  
paper tablecloths, paper bags, cardboard egg  
cartons, popcorn bags, muffin cups, parchment  
paper, newspaper



## NON-COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS

### *Kitchen waste*

Wooden and plastic coffee stir sticks  
Toothpicks, wooden skewers  
Wooden crates or boxes for fruit  
Individual coffee pods

### *Green waste*

Invasive plants  
(ragweed and Japanese knotweed)  
Large tree branches or trunks  
Soil, sand, gravel, manure

### *Other*

Plastic bags (all types)  
Excrement and litter  
Cigarette or cigar butts, ashes  
Medication  
Cotton swabs  
Pencils  
Vacuum cleaner dust  
Baby or adult diapers, sanitary napkins, wet wipes  
Nails, hair, fur (human or animal)  
Cosmetics, hair and body care products  
Mechanical oils  
Fabric softener sheets or dryer residue  
Clothing, textiles and leather  
Recyclable materials, glass, ceramics  
Building materials  
Household hazardous waste (HHW)  
Any other kind of waste



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# tips & tricks

Here are some practical tips to help you properly sort your compost. If you still have questions, visit the FAQ section on [mescollectes.ca](http://mescollectes.ca)

## Maintain your bins



- ✓ Your kitchen food collector is dishwasher safe
- ✓ You can clean your brown bin with vinegar or biodegradable soap
- ✓ Use the lasagna method (alternating paper and organic materials) to absorb any liquids
- ✓ Wrap your waste in newspaper or soiled paper when possible to keep animals away
- ✓ Avoid accumulation of materials
- ✓ Place non-plasticized cardboard at the bottom of your brown bin

## Keep animals away



- ✓ Close the lid tightly after each use
- ✓ Spray vinegar or apply peppermint oil around the edge of your brown bin
- ✓ Use a bungee cord to hold the lid closed

## Save space



- ✓ Reduce the size of your indoor garbage can
- ✓ Freeze your food waste
- ✓ Use several small containers in different rooms or spaces (at work, for instance)

## Eliminate odours



- ✓ Freeze materials with strong odours and put them out the day before collection
- ✓ Store your brown bin in the shade
- ✓ Sprinkle baking soda in your bins regularly
- ✓ Put your bin out on every collection day, even if it's not full

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MESCOLLECTES.CA

# THE collection



CHECK THE COLLECTION SCHEDULE  
FOR YOUR AREA AT

[MESCOLLECTES.CA](http://MESCOLLECTES.CA)

## HOW DO I USE MY KITCHEN FOOD COLLECTOR?

You can put your organic materials directly into the bin. We suggest you put newspaper at the bottom to absorb any liquids.

Be sure to wash your bin regularly to avoid odours. It's even dishwasher safe!



## HOW DO I USE MY BROWN BIN?

Empty the contents of your kitchen food collector into your brown bin on a regular basis. Put your bin out the day before every collection, even if it's not full.



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