Food & Compostables

Food is not allowed in garbage or recycling carts. Put these items in your food and yard waste cart.

All Food Waste

Food-Soiled Paper (without shiny coating)

Approved Compostable Packaging & Bags

Yard Waste, Plants, Untreated Wood

Storage Tips

NO PLASTIC in the food and yard waste cart.

All residential properties in Seattle are required to have food and yard waste collection service. Food and yard waste are not allowed in the garbage. Here’s how to make kitchen food scrap collection easy.

**Kitchen collection container options**
Choose a food waste container that works for you. Options for collecting food waste include:

- **Durable containers with a lid**
- **Pitchers or buckets with handles**
- **Salad containers**

**Compostable bags**
Compostable bags may make it easier to collect food waste, however, they are not required.

**Which bags to use and where to buy them:**
- Compostable bags must be clearly labeled “compostable” and must be certified by BPI
- Certified bags display the BPI label
- To check whether a brand is approved, search “compostable bags” at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util)
- They are often a green tint/color
- Available at most grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores

**Which bags to avoid:**
- Do not use plastic bags, they do not break down
- Do not use bags labeled “degradable” or “biodegradable,” they contain plastic
- Do not use green-tinted/colored plastic produce bags

**Keep your container clean and reduce odors**
- Line container with newspaper, a plain paper bag, or paper towels
- Wash container often
- Layer food waste with newspaper or food-soiled paper
- Store container in freezer or refrigerator

**Plastic, metal, glass, and pet waste ARE NOT ALLOWED in the food & yard waste cart.**

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.

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