

What happens to your food and garden waste?



Your small acts make a big impact

Food waste makes up almost half of the average household general rubbish bin in Merri-bek.

Food thrown into your general rubbish bin ends up in landfill. Food in landfill creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

When we waste food, we also waste the resources used to grow our food and the energy used to package and transport it.

By sorting your food and garden waste into a separate bin you can:

- Help create compost to improve soils on Victorian farms
- Halve the amount of waste we send to landfill
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a clean and green Merri-bek.

Reduce your food waste

The average Victorian household **throws away \$2,136** worth of food a year.

Almost **two thirds of the food** we throw away could have been eaten.

Save money and the environment by reducing your food waste.

For more information: sustainability.vic.gov.au/food-waste

Shared bins

Do you live in a unit, townhouse or apartment block and share a food and garden organics bin with your neighbours?

For tips on using shared bins visit our website:

merri-bek.vic.gov.au/muds-bins

Food and Garden Organics Bin User Guide

This is your guide on:

- How to use your food and garden organics bin
- What you can put in your bin
- What happens to your food and garden waste



Merri-bek
City Council

More information

Visit: merri-bek.vic.gov.au/foodandgarden
Email: wasteprojects@merri-bek.vic.gov.au
Phone: 9240 1111

Merri-bek Language Link

Italiano	Italian	9280 1911	Türkçe	Turkish	9280 1914
Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 1912	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9280 1915
عربي	Arabic	9280 1913	ཡིག་སྐད་	Nepali	9280 0751
普通话	Chinese (Simplified)	9280 0750	National Relay Service: 13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au		



Merri-bek
City Council

Sustainability
Victoria

What CAN go in your food and garden organics bin



Fruit and vegetable scraps



Citrus, onions and garlic



Cheese and egg shells



Seafood, meat scraps and bones



Bread, cereal, rice, noodles and pasta



Meal leftovers



Coffee grounds and loose tea leaves

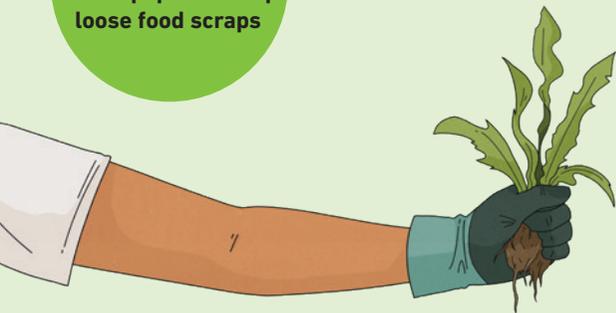


Leaves and twigs



Garden prunings, grass and weeds

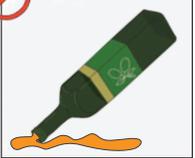
You can use paper towel or newspaper to wrap loose food scraps



What CANNOT go in your food and garden organics bin



No plastic, compostable or biodegradable bags



No cooking oils, sauces or liquids



No food packaging and plastic wrap



No tea bags or coffee pods



No compostable or biodegradable items



No nappies



No garden rubbish



No bagged waste



No coffee cups

Plastic and compostable bags are not accepted. Bags can cause contamination which reduces the quality of compost created from your food and garden waste.

Put your food scraps in the bin loose, not in bags.

For more information on how to use your food and garden organics bin, visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/foodandgarden

Put your food waste to good use in 3 easy steps

STEP 1



Collect your food scraps

- Use a kitchen caddy or other container to collect your food scraps.
- You can line your caddy with newspaper or paper towel to reduce smell and mess.
- Please do not use plastic or compostable bags - these cause problems in the composting process.
- Leave meat and seafood scraps in your fridge or freezer until bin night to reduce smell.

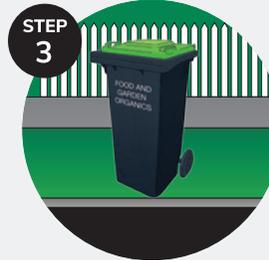
STEP 2



Put loose food scraps into your food and garden organics bin

- Use paper towel or newspaper to wrap loose food scraps
- Use dry garden waste at the bottom of your green bin and layer with food waste to reduce smell and mess.
- Place your bin in a cool, shady place and keep the lid closed. Do not overfill your bin.

STEP 3



Put your food and garden organics bin out for collection on bin night. We'll do the rest!

- We will empty your bin and your food and garden waste will be turned into compost for local gardens and farms.