

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this replace my blue cart?

No, the green cart does not replace your blue cart—it complements it! When paired with your blue cart, you'll have even less trash to set out. Recycle in the **Blue**, Compost in the **Green** and minimize your Trash!

What if I rely on my garbage disposal?

Using a garbage disposal can lead to plumbing clogs and backups. Disposals send valuable nutrients to the water reclamation facility. Composting food scraps in your backyard or using the green bin for collection are better options.

Can I get an additional green cart?

Yes! Order forms to purchase additional carts are available on our website. Please remember that green carts are to be used for food scraps and yard trim ONLY.



Visit [FeedTheGreenBin.org](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/FeedTheGreenBin.org) for green bin how-to videos!



Food Waste Prevention

Pledge to start reducing your food waste footprint! Here are some tips to get you started:

- Use a shopping list.
- Store food properly to extend shelf-life.
- Learn the difference between “best by”, “sell by” and “use by” dates. An expired date doesn’t always mean the item is inedible.
- Take up canning or pickling to preserve your excess fruits and vegetables and enjoy them year-round.

Want to Learn More?

Visit [HowardCountyMD.gov/FoodWastePrevention](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/FoodWastePrevention) and download our free toolkit.

Follow the Recycling Division on Twitter @HoCoRecycles



Sign up for our monthly e-news blast!



8/2019

Feed The Green Bin

A Guide to Howard County's Food Scrap Collection Program



[FeedTheGreenBin.org](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/FeedTheGreenBin.org)
410-313-6444




Bureau of Environmental Services
9801 Broken Land Parkway
Columbia, MD 21046

Thank you for participating in our curbside Feed The Green Bin program


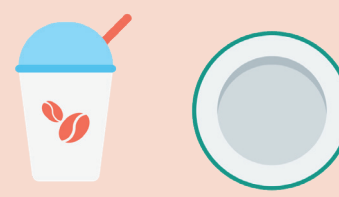
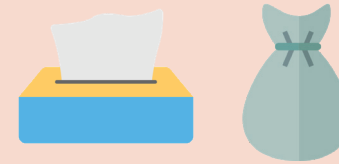
Through this program, Howard County residents can reduce trash sent to the landfill by at least 30% simply by composting their food scraps. Recycle in the **Blue**, Compost in the **Green** and minimize your Trash!

Food scrap and yard trim can be set out together for weekly collection by the yard trim truck. This collection is year-round, so continue to set food scraps and yard trim out through the winter.

Accepted *If it grows, it goes!*

<p>Fruit & Vegetable Scraps</p> 	<p>Meat, Fish, Egg Shells & Dairy <i>small amounts</i></p> 	<p>Bread, Pasta, Rice & Baked Goods</p> 
<p>Coffee Grounds, Tea Bags <i>no foil</i></p> 	<p>Grass, Leaves, Yard Trim, Cut Flowers</p> 	<p>Paper Products <i>napkins, plates, egg cartons, pizza boxes, toothpicks</i></p> 

Not Accepted

<p>Fats, Oils, Grease & Liquids</p> 	<p>Plastic Plates, Cups & Cutlery</p> 	<p>Facial Tissues, Diapers, Pet Waste & Plastic Bags</p> 
--	--	--

If you come across an item that you are unsure about, email or call us.
We are happy to help!

Getting Started

Collect kitchen scraps

Use our provided countertop container or your own to collect kitchen scraps. These containers are for indoor use only and should not be set out for curbside collection. Paper bags and certified compostable bags are accepted. No plastic bags.

Set out for collection

Your cart will be emptied weekly by the same truck that collects yard trim. Place items at the curb before 6am on collection day. Collections will occur year round.

Please set your cart out weekly, regardless of the amount of material set out. The 40-pound weigh limit does not apply to County-issued green carts.

Feed your garden

Food scraps and yard trim are turned into compost at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. HoCoGro compost, mulch and topsoil are available to sample or purchase. Visit our website for current pricing.

HoCoGro Compost and **HoCoGro Mulch**
Made Locally Spread Locally

Using compost in your garden and on your lawn has many benefits! It helps improve soil and plant health, increases water absorption and reduces runoff and erosion