

Keep Your Green Bin Clean - Items to Avoid While Composting



Did you know that compost made from food scraps can help improve soils, nourish plants, and fight climate change?



Many common household items* can contaminate compost production and contain substances that contaminate the soil and the water, so be sure to keep them out of your Green Bin program.



**While there may be compostable versions, they are difficult to sort in large loads with other similar looking contaminants. They may also not break down at local compost facilities, so it's better to err on the side of caution and avoid placing these products in!*



No Hygiene Products, Please!



Baby Wipes - These are tough to break down and contain fragrances, cleaning products, and disinfectants.



Bandages - These are usually contaminated and contain layers of plastic that belong in the garbage.



Dental Floss - The minty nylon's good for your mouth, but doesn't break down and can harm wildlife.



Make-up Remover Pads - These can contain a lot of residual chemicals and fragrances after use.



Used tissues - Finished blowing your nose? Make sure that goes in the garbage and not the compost!



No Packaging Plastics, Either!



Polystyrene Foam - These packaging materials break down into small pieces which can harm wildlife.



Cartons for Milk/Juice - Put these in your recycling bin!



Cereal Box Liners - These cloudy plastic bags are not compostable. The box itself is totally recyclable!



Disposable Coffee Cups - These often contain a plastic liner and belong in curbside recycling programs.



Fruit Stickers - Take these off your banana and orange peels before tossing them in the Green Bin!



Other Miscellaneous Items to Keep Out of the Green Bin



Construction Materials - Take renovation debris to a local waste station or a fill site for proper disposal.



Glass - No glass in the compost, please! Shards can be hazardous to processors looking for contamination.



Soil & Rocks - These are inorganic materials that don't help the composting process.



Metal - Tin cans for food belong in your recycling while larger pieces can go to scrap metal companies.



Cigarette Butts + filters - These contain trace chemical residues that don't break down in the composting process.



Dryer Sheets - These may make your clothes smell good, but don't belong in the composting process.



Rubber Bands - They don't break down very well, so keep them out of the compost.



Vacuum bag and their contents - Carpet fibers and dustballs belong in the garbage instead of the Green Bin.



Want more info on what is acceptable for composting?
Lower Mainland 604-RECYCLE (732-9253) or Toll-Free BC 1(800)-667-4321
Visit www.rcbc.ca or download the Recyclepedia App:

