

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.

What happens to the food scraps?

Food scraps and yard trim are turned into compost (a valuable soil amendment) at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. For more information, visit HowardCountyMD.gov/HoCoGro.



Looking for more info?

Visit 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 and keep your fridge maintained correctly.
- 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 at a later date.

Want to Learn More?

Visit HowardCountyMD.gov/FoodWastePrevention and download our free toolkit.

Follow the Recycling Division on Twitter
[@HoCoRecycles](https://twitter.com/HoCoRecycles)



Sign up for our monthly e-news blast!



Feed The Green Bin

A Guide to Howard County’s Food Scrap Collection Program



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


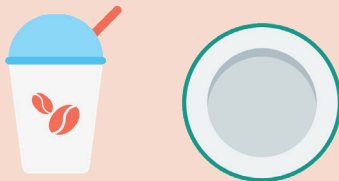
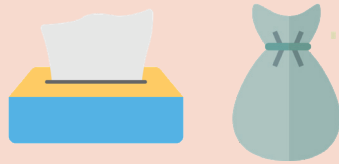
Through this program, Howard County residents can reduce trash sent to the landfill by at least 30% simply by composting their food scraps. Recycle in the **Blue**, Compost in the **Green** and minimize your Trash!

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> 
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Frequently Asked Questions

What should I use to collect food scraps indoors?

Use our provided countertop container or your own to collect kitchen scraps. Paper bags and certified compostable bags are accepted. No plastic bags.

How often is the green bin emptied?

Green bins are 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.**

I only have a small amount of food scrap this week. Should I still participate? Would I need to roll out my cart on a weekly basis?

Yes! Regular participation really adds up to reduce what is sent to the landfill. Remember, items such as cereal, corn cobs and husks, old or stale foods can be included.

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!

Will the 40-pound weight limit apply to my green bin?

Not for the county-issued cart. However, additional containers should weigh less than 40 pounds.

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