



FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING & RECYCLING

Have you ever stopped to think about how much food waste goes into your garbage can on a weekly basis? *A lot!*

In fact, **food scraps and food-soiled paper make up about 23% of Marin's residential waste stream.** But there is an alternative: food scrap composting, and Mill Valley Refuse Service makes it easy for you to participate.

Simply collect your food scraps and food-soiled paper (many people use a spare bowl or small compost buckets in their kitchens to conveniently collect food scraps), and then place them in your green can along with your yard waste. **We pick up the organic waste from your green can weekly on your regular pickup day.**

When you compost in your green can, your organic waste will be diverted from the landfill to create a rich and nutritious soil amendment that can be put back in the earth, closing the "recycling loop." You'll also help Marin County achieve its 2025 Zero Waste goals. You can learn more about these goals by visiting zerowastmarin.org.

If you're worried about food scraps making your green can messy, you can place sheets of newspaper at the bottom of the can or wrap the scraps in paper. **NO PLASTIC BAGS** (not even so-called bio-degradable ones) are permitted. You can even place a small compost bucket into your green can at the curb. Our drivers will lift the bucket out and dump it.

The green can is taller and more stable than common garbage cans, so raccoons and other pests may find them difficult to tip over or get into. However, if pests become a problem, you can

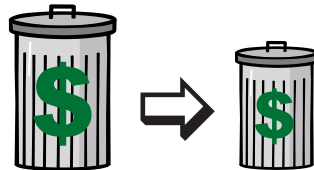
use a bungee cord to hold the can's lid down just as many people do now with their garbage cans.

Your participation and cooperation is critical in making food waste composting a success. Please review the list on this page for what can and cannot go in the green can or use the handy Food Scrap Recycling flier on page 2 of this pdf. You can also print the flier on our website at www.millvalleyrefuse.com.

PARTICIPATE, REUSE AND SAVE MONEY

Did you know you could switch to a cheaper, 20-gallon garbage can if you recycle and compost so much that you do not fill larger-size cans with trash? That's your incentive to participate fully in the services that help you divert waste away from the landfill.

Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as much as possible to see if you're able to drop a can size and save money.



THANK YOU FOR BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS AND KEEPING YOUR STREETS NEAT!

Everyone loves using their recycling and green compost cans, but nobody likes how ugly they look when left out in the street too long. Please, do your part to keep your neighborhood looking great. Only bring your cans out on the night before your pickup day, and roll them out of sight the same day they get emptied.

THESE ITEMS CAN GO IN YOUR GREEN COMPOST CAN

FOOD SCRAPS

- Fruits & Vegetables
- Meat & Poultry
- Breads & Grains
- Seafood & Shellfish
- Coffee grounds
- Plate Scrapings & Leftovers
- Bones, Rice, Beans, Pasta
- Cheese & Eggshells

FOOD-SOILED PAPER

- Paper napkins/towels/plates/cups
- Coffee filters & tea bags
- Paper take-out boxes
- Pizza boxes (if too soiled to simply recycle)

YARD & GARDEN WASTE

- Leaves, Flowers, Grass, Weeds
- Bush and Tree trimmings
- Houseplants

DO NOT PUT THESE ITEMS IN YOUR GREEN CAN

- Plastic of any kind (even so-called bio-degradable plastic)
- Liquids, Glass, Metal
- Foam containers
- Paper ice cream cartons
- Milk cartons
- Waxed cardboard
- Pet Waste or Diapers
- Rocks or Dirt

Food Scrap Recycling



YES

- FRUITS
- VEGETABLES
- DAIRY
- BREADS & GRAINS
- MEATS
- SEAFOOD
- FOOD-SOILED PAPER
- PLANTS

Reminder: All clean, recyclable paper and cardboard goes in Single Stream cart.

NO

- GLASS
- PLASTIC
- METAL
- LIQUIDS
- FOAM CONTAINERS
- WAXED CARDBOARD
- PET WASTE
- DIAPERS





RECYCLE GUIDE

In addition to food scrap composting, recycling continues to be another way to divert huge volumes of waste from the landfill.

Now's a good time to renew your knowledge about what you can recycle. (And don't forget the other two "R's"—Reduce and Reuse!)

ABOUT YOUR RECYCLING SERVICE

"Single stream" or "mixed" recycling cans are easy to use. **Just mix recyclables into your can and roll it out to the street by 6:00 a.m. on your regular recycling day.** Please help keep your neighborhood neat by pulling your empty can off the street as soon as you are able.

Flatten and bundle all large cardboard boxes that won't fit in your can so our drivers can easily throw them into the truck. If you have more recyclables than will fit in the can on any given week, simply place the extra in paper bags or buckets and place them by your can for disposal.

PAPER

Advertisements
Brown paper
Brown paper bags
Carbonless paper
Catalogs
Cereal and other food boxes (*remove liners*)
Chipboard
Colored paper
Computer paper
Construction paper
Corrugate cardboard (*flatten and bundle*)
Coupons

Envelopes
Inserts
Junk mail
Kraft bags
Kraft paper
Legal pad backing
Magazines
Mixed paper
Newspaper
Office paper
Office ledger
Paper egg cartons
Paper milk cartons
Paper towel & toiler paper tubes

Paperboard
Shoe boxes
Telephone books

DO NOT INCLUDE

Soiled paper*
Wax or plastic-coated paper
Tissues
Paper towels*
Photographs
Hardcover books
**These items can go in your green compost bin*

GLASS

Bottles
Brown glass
Clear glass
Green glass
Jars
Please rinse lightly to remove food contamination. Remove lids and caps and toss them in loose so they can be recycled too. No corks.

DO NOT INCLUDE

Ceramics
Pyrex
Stemware or drinking glasses
Light bulbs
Window glass
Mirrors

PLASTIC

All plastic labeled 1 through 7
Plastic bottles
Soft drink bottles
Water jugs
Aseptic beverage boxes (such as juice or soy milk boxes)
Please rinse and empty before recycling. No need to remove labels, but do remove caps (because they are made from a different type of plastic than the container), and toss caps in to be recycled too.

DO NOT INCLUDE

Styrofoam
Plastic bags
PVC pipe

METAL

Aerosol cans (*empty*)
Aluminum
Aluminum cans/foil/food containers
Bi-metal cans
Ferrous metal
Metal lids and caps
Metal containers
Paint cans (*dry and empty*)
Tin
Steel cans
Please make sure all cans are completely empty and dry. No need to remove labels.

DO NOT INCLUDE

Scrap metal
Propane tanks
Hangers
Containers with liquid