

# Food and green waste recycling

Council is expanding our food and green waste recycling service to all residents who receive Council's kerbside collection service. If you do not currently have a food and green waste bin you will receive one during June and July 2022.

All residents receiving a new food and green waste bin will also get a free kitchen caddy. This makes it easy to collect food scraps in the kitchen. When it's full, just empty it into your green lidded bin.

If you already have a food and green waste bin, you can order a free kitchen caddy by filling out an [online form](#).

As part of the food waste recycling service, you will be able to put all types of food waste into your green bin, alongside your garden waste.

Food and green waste is collected fortnightly and you can start using your new bin as soon as it is delivered. Check [our Recycling Calendar](#) to find your collection dates.

Collection services haven't changed. General waste bins are emptied every week, and recycling bins and food and green waste bins are emptied every alternating fortnight.

The decision to introduce food and green waste recycling across the municipality is in line with the State Government's overhaul of household recycling to reduce waste, increase recycling and make the most of our resources.

To deliver these statewide changes, while still providing all the services we love, we're introducing a kerbside waste fee and a public waste rate. From 1 July 2022, these fees will be shown as separate items on your rates notice. We are reducing general rates to offset these fees and we are no longer charging a separate fee for the food and green waste bin.

## Environmental benefits of recycling food waste

### ***Why is Council collecting food waste?***

Food waste makes up approximately 48% of Darebin's kerbside household waste sent to landfill. Introducing food waste recycling is one of our biggest opportunities to quickly reduce carbon emissions. If everyone with a food and green waste bin in Darebin recycles their food waste, we can save 9,000 tonnes from landfill and 17,800 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. This is the same as taking 6,130 cars off the road each year. It will also save on costs. The average Victorian household throws away \$2,200 worth of food a year.

### ***What happens to food and green waste after it's collected?***

Your food and green waste is taken to the Veolia organics recycling facility in Bulla. The facility transforms the waste into compost, mulches and soil products, which are used right here in Victoria for agriculture and horticulture.

# Food and green waste recycling



## How to use the service

### How do I use my food and green waste bin for food?

- Use any airtight container such as a kitchen caddy, ice-cream container, or food container to store your food waste. Keep it somewhere easy to access, like your kitchen bench or under the sink, so it's close to hand when cooking or clearing up after meals.
- You can line your caddy with newspaper or paper towel and, if you're worried about smells, sprinkle some bi-carb soda.
- Empty the food waste into your food and green waste bin. Make sure your food waste goes in loose without any bags.
- Put your food and green waste bin out for collection. It will be collected every two weeks, alternating with your recycling bin.

<b>What <u>CAN</u> I put in my food and green waste bin?</b>	<b>What <u>CAN'T</u> I put in my food and green waste bin?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fruit and vegetable scraps</li> <li>• Food scraps (cooked or uncooked)</li> <li>• Dairy products and meat products (including seafood, eggs, bones)</li> <li>• Bread, pasta, rice, cereal and other table scraps</li> <li>• Coffee grounds (no used coffee pods or capsules please)</li> <li>• Loose leaf tea (no teabags)</li> <li>• Small amounts of newspaper or paper towel (used to wrap loose food; no tape or ties please)</li> <li>• Grass clippings</li> <li>• Small garden prunings</li> <li>• Twigs and small branches</li> <li>• Leaves</li> <li>• Flowers</li> <li>• Weeds, ivy, creepers and vines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liquids (eg., cooking oil, milk)</li> <li>• Plastic bags, even if labelled compostable or biodegradable</li> <li>• Plastic wrapping (eg., cling wrap)</li> <li>• Household garbage</li> <li>• Nappies, even if labelled compostable or biodegradable</li> <li>• Soil, pebbles and rocks</li> <li>• Treated or painted timber</li> <li>• Pet droppings</li> <li>• Cat litter, even if labelled compostable or biodegradable</li> <li>• Teabags</li> <li>• Syringes</li> <li>• Textiles</li> <li>• Oily pizza boxes</li> </ul>

### Should I put my food waste in a plastic bag?

No. Plastic bags (even if they're compostable or biodegradable) cannot be put in our green waste recycling bins – plastic contaminates compost. Use a sheet of newspaper or paper towel to wrap your food instead, if needed.

### Why can't we use compostable or biodegradable caddy liners?

Council's processors (Veolia) do not accept compostable/biodegradable bags.

### How do I keep my green bin from smelling?

- To minimize odour layer lawn clippings and other garden prunings between food scraps.
- Keep your food and green waste bin in a cool and shady area and make sure the lid is kept closed
- Particularly smelly foods like seafood and meat scraps can be kept in the freezer and taken out on bin night.
- If there are food scraps left in the bin after collection, hose it down and let it dry in the sun.

# Food and green waste recycling



## ***How do I stop my bin from attracting insects?***

- Keep the lid closed
- Try to keep bins in the shade
- Some insects are expected however if you keep your bin clean you can avoid larger pests and vermin.

## **Collection details**

### ***Will the frequency of my bin collection change?***

There will be no change to collection frequency. General waste bins are emptied weekly and recycling and food and green waste bins fortnightly. We will consult with the community about collection frequency of the various bins in March 2023.

### ***Other Councils are changing their landfill bin collection to fortnightly. Is Darebin going to change too?***

We will consult with the community in March 2023 to learn what works for Darebin households. For now, landfill (garbage) bins will continue to be collected weekly.

## **Service details**

### ***Will bin sizes change?***

Bin sizes won't change. Council's standard service for food and green waste is a 120L bin with a light green lid.

### ***Can I get a larger green waste bin or an extra green waste bin?***

Yes, you can [request a larger food and green waste bin on our website](#).

### ***I am a renter can I order an extra/larger food and green waste bin?***

If you are a tenant in a rental property and would like a larger or extra food and green waste bin, you will need to contact the property owner or agent and ask them to make the request on your behalf.

### ***Will my waste and co-mingled recycling services change?***

Not at this time.

The State Government has mandated several changes to how Councils across Victoria manage their waste. This includes transitioning to four core waste and recycling services before 2027:

- Red lid bin: rubbish
- Green lid bin: food and green waste
- Yellow lid bin: recycling (of plastics, metals, paper, cardboard: known as co-mingled recycling)
- Purple lid bin: glass recycling (Council may provide centralised collection points for glass instead of a bin. This will be decided once we have consulted with the community on Council's kerbside waste services in March 2023.)

### ***What will I pay if I currently have a larger 240L green bin, not a standard 120L?***

If you have, or you want, a 240L green bin, you will need to pay an extra fee for the larger green bin (\$57 full; \$38 concession).

### ***Will the food and green waste bin continue to be an optional service?***

No. All ratepayers receiving Council's kerbside waste collection service will have a food and green waste bin.

# Food and green waste recycling



## ***I received my green bin but not my caddy. Can I order one?***

Yes. Please leave your details with our customer service team by calling 03 8470 8888 or emailing [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au) and our team will have your caddy re-delivered in coming weeks.

## ***Do I still have to pay extra for non-standard bins?***

Yes. You will need to pay extra for:

- Larger waste bins
- Larger food and green waste bins
- Additional recycling bins
- Additional or larger food and garden waste bins

## ***I live in an apartment. Can I use the service?***

You can use the service if your apartment block has a council managed waste service. If your bins have a Darebin Council logo on them, you are currently receiving a council service and your new food and green waste bin (if you do not already have one) will be delivered between June and July.

## ***I live in an apartment building and my neighbours and I want to share a food and green waste bin between us. How can we request less than one bin for each property?***

If you would like to share a bin between multiple apartments, please email [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au) to make this request. Please ensure you let us know how many people live in your apartment.

## ***Can my business or school use the service?***

Businesses, schools, body corporate representatives and commercial properties, cannot access Council's food and green waste service. We do not currently have the vehicles and services set up for these types of collections.

You can seek a private food recycling service, use composting or use a food waste drop-off resource, such as [www.sharewaste.com](http://www.sharewaste.com).

For more information on a number of free and paid food recycling options, look for "Business organic waste recycling" on our website's [Sustainable business page](#).

For more information on composting visit [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste).

***I don't want a new food and green waste bin. Why am I receiving one?*** Providing a food and green waste service to all households is an important part of the State Government's Recycling Victoria reforms. The State Government has introduced legislation that requires councils to provide a food and green waste bin to all households that receive council's kerbside waste collection service. In Darebin, food waste makes up about half of what goes in household garbage bins and gets sent to landfill. Expanding our food and green waste service means we can reduce waste to landfill across the municipality.

## ***I already have a compost bin (or worm farm) in my garden, so do I actually need a new food and green waste bin?***

Council encourages residents to compost at home if they can, but there are some items you can't compost at home, or put in worm farms, which you **can** put in the Council bins, including meat, bones, dairy, citrus, garlic and onion.

# Food and green waste recycling



## ***I already compost at home and don't want a food and green waste bin. If I won't use the service, why am I being charged a kerbside waste service fee?***

From July 2022 you'll notice two separate charges on your rates notice: a kerbside waste collection fee and a public waste rate. The kerbside waste collection fee covers not only Council's food and green waste service, but also garbage and co-mingled recycling. This change represents Darebin joining the vast majority of Victorian Councils in introducing a separate waste charge. Visit our [Waste Service Fee](#) page for more information about Council's changes.

## ***Did you consult the community about rolling out new food and green waste bins?***

Council consulted with the community when developing our Waste and Recycling Strategy in 2020. Reducing food waste was identified as a priority for the community. We also consulted on our Council Plan 2021-2025 which included an action to increase food waste recycling through Council's food and green waste service as priority action to reduce waste. We will consult the community about our kerbside waste and recycling services again in March 2023, including about the collection frequency of the various bins.

## ***Is Council rolling out purple-lidded bins for glass?***

As part of the State Government's changes to how councils across Victoria manage their waste, all councils must transition to four core waste and recycling services before 2027, including glass recycling. We will consult the community in March 2023 on the broader recycling reforms before deciding how we deliver glass recycling in Darebin.

## **Kitchen caddies**

### ***How do I get a kitchen caddy?***

If you are a new user of the food and green waste recycling service, a kitchen caddy will be delivered with your new green bin. If you already have a green bin, you can order a free kitchen caddy by filling out [an online form](#) before August 31, 2022. Your caddy will be delivered to your nominated address in October. You can use any kind of container as a kitchen caddy, including lidded buckets, ice cream containers, large yogurt tubs and Tupperware.

### ***My kitchen caddy was stolen/lost/damaged. Can I have another?***

Yes. Please complete [our online form](#).

### ***I don't want a kitchen caddy.***

We encourage you to use your free kitchen caddy to help make food waste recycling easy. But if you don't want yours, please don't throw it away; return it to a Darebin Council Customer Service Centre or the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre.

## **More information**

### ***I want to find out more about food waste recycling.***

Visit [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste), call 03 8470 8888 or email [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)

### ***I'd like information about food waste recycling in my language.***

Visit [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/foodwaste) to download PDFs in Arabic, Chinese Traditional, Greek, Macedonian, Italian, Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Spanish, Somali, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Call 03 8470 8470 and ask to speak to someone about food and green waste recycling in your language. Or call 03 8470 8888 or email [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au) to have a pamphlet in your language mailed to you.