



New Cart Contamination Inspections

Beginning February 1, 2023, we will be inspecting recycling, food and yard waste carts and strictly enforcing contamination limits. Carts with 10% or more contamination will be tagged, will not be emptied, and charges may apply.

What is contamination?

Contamination happens when items are put in green yard waste carts that do not belong. For instance, pet waste, rocks and dirt are not compostable and do not belong in the green cart. Polystyrene foam and plastic bags are other examples of common contaminants.

What happens if my cart is contaminated?

1. If the cart has 10% or more contamination, an inspector from Republic Services will put a tag on the cart listing the main contaminants (if you live in a house) or send a letter to the property manager (for apartment/condo residents). The driver will not empty the cart that day.
2. The homeowner or property manager will be given a choice to either remove the contaminants from the cart or have the cart emptied and be charged for extra trash.
 - if the contaminants are removed, the cart will be collected on the next regular compost collection day at no charge.
 - if the contaminants are NOT removed, the cart will be collected on the next regular trash day and charged for extra trash.
3. Continued instances of contamination may result in contamination fees and, in extreme cases, removal of compost services.

Why do we need to reduce contamination?

Contamination makes it harder or even impossible to turn yard waste and food scraps into good, clean compost. Compost is a valuable soil supplement that provides vitamins and nutrients to plants. The City of Kent and Republic Services are partnering to reduce contamination by educating customers about what belongs in the green compost cart.

These items can **always** be placed inside your food and yard waste cart:



Grass



Leaves



Yard Debris



Food Scraps



Coffee Filters

These items can **never** be placed inside your food and yard waste cart:



Plastic Bags



Produce Netting



Dairy Tubs



Pet Waste



Glass

Get a Head Start

Visit [KingCounty.gov/compost-right](https://kingcounty.gov/compost-right) to learn what goes in the green compost cart, or email compostinginfo@RepublicServices.com for more information.



Sustainability in Action