

Thank you for participating in the organics program! Keeping food and other organic materials out of landfills helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The contents of the green organics cart are processed at our compost facility in Manteca where it is turned into nutrient-rich soil.



## Helpful tips when recycling your food scraps:

1. Empty food scraps into your organics cart every few days to prevent flies.
2. Cover food scraps with yard trimmings in your cart to avoid pests and odors.
3. Line kitchen pail with paper towels or newspaper to help keep your pail clean. The liner paper can be composted with the food scraps and yard clippings!
4. If you must use a bag, **only paper bags or certified compostable bags may be used.** Purchase compostable bags with the "Compostable: BPI—Meets ASTM 6400 Standard" label on the packaging.
5. Please only place organic items in the green organics cart. More information about acceptable items is on the front of your food scraps pail and in the service guide.



Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

[RecycleSmart.org](http://RecycleSmart.org)



**REPUBLIC**  
SERVICES

# Frequently Asked Questions



## **I use the Garbage Disposal in my kitchen sink for food scraps disposal.**

**Why should I use this program?** Placing food and grease in your sink's garbage disposal can cause sewer line blockages. The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) actively discourages placing food and grease (or other fatty materials) in the sewage system. By placing leftover food scraps in the green organics cart, you'll help to prevent sewage blockages, and the food will be reused and turned into compost - a rich soil amendment.

**Why can't I dispose of food scraps in a plastic bag?** Plastic bags and other plastic products are not compostable, and therefore cannot be placed in the organics cart. The materials in the green cart will be turned into a soil-amendment, and plastics must be kept out to prevent contamination. If a bag must be used, look for the certified compostable label on the packaging: "Compostable BPI - Meets ASTM 6400 Standard". You may also use paper bags.

## **Why can't I recycle compostable plastic products with my food scraps?**

Compostable plastic cups, utensils, and to-go containers are designed to break down over time, but their decomposition takes much longer than a normal composting cycle at the compost facility and are not accepted in the program. Certified compostable bags are acceptable because they break down more quickly. Food-soiled paper products that are shiny, such as milk cartons and many food take-out boxes, are not compostable.

**For questions, contact Republic Services  
at 925-685-4711. Happy composting!**

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