



## GIVE FOOD SCRAPS A NEW LIFE.

When you put food scraps and food-soiled paper into your green organics cart, it goes to Cedar Grove Compost in Maple Valley. Instead of using up space at the landfill, food scraps and food-soiled paper are recycled into a soil-enriching compost. By

recycling food scraps and using compost, you are completing a recycling loop.

## IS CEDAR GROVE COMPOST SAFE TO USE?

Yes. At Cedar Grove, a computer-controlled system heats the compost to high temperatures hot enough to kill diseases and pests and biodegrades any toxic chemicals that may be present. Compost piles are monitored and maintained at 150° F for at least 3 weeks, then screened and left to cure for 2-5 months. The finished compost is tested in accordance with state laws to ensure it is safe. Compost is a great soil amendment for your flowers, vegetables, and shrubs. For more information, visit [www.cedar-grove.com](http://www.cedar-grove.com)



## EASY WAYS TO COLLECT FOOD SCRAPS



Use a kitchen container lined with a paper bag (put paper towel or newspaper in bag to soak up liquid) or a Cedar Grove approved compostable kitchen bag. When full, empty into your green organics cart.

Or, line a double brown paper bag with newspaper. When full of food scraps and food-soiled paper, put entire bag into the green organics cart.

### SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTS

For a free kitchen scraps bucket, please call Republic Services at **425-452-4762**.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. I use milk cartons, paper coffee cups, and ice cream cartons to collect food scraps? Can they go into the organics cart?

No. These items have a thin layer of plastic that doesn't break down in the composting process. Recycle these items in the blue recycling cart.

### 2. Can I put dirty paper towels I use for cleaning in the organics cart?

No. Just put paper towels used in food preparation into the organics cart.

### 3. Can I put pet waste in with food scraps?

No. Pet waste may seem compostable, but it contains harmful bacteria that can make people sick. Put pet waste in a plastic bag, tie shut, and place in the garbage.

### 4. Can I put cooking grease in with food scraps?

No. It's ok to "sop" up a small amount of grease with a paper towel and put that in with food scraps. But, do not put grease or other liquids in with food scraps. Let grease solidify and put it in the garbage. (You can use kitty litter to help with solidification.)

For larger amounts of oil from deep frying, check King County's website at: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wdidw/index.asp>

### 5. How can I keep odors down?

- Empty food scraps into the organics cart daily.
- Keep your food scraps kitchen container in the fridge.
- Wrap smelly food in newspaper and freeze until collection day.
- Wash out organics cart (on grass; not near a storm drain).



## USE ONLY CEDAR GROVE APPROVED COMPOSTABLE BAGS

Some bags say "compostable," but they do not break down. Please don't use the plastic bags that stores bag your groceries in. Buy compostable kitchen bags such as Glad, BioBag, Ecosafe, and Bag-To-Nature for sale at local stores.



For a complete list of where to buy approved bags, visit



<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/biodegradable-bags.asp>

## WHAT TO DO WITH EXTRA YARD DEBRIS

Please do not put yard debris in the garbage.

Put extra yard debris (no food scraps) in:

- Rigid can with handles and lid (32 gallon, 60 lb. limit) labeled "yard debris" or –
- Paper yard debris bags (available at hardware stores.)

Each week you can put out your green organics cart and up to three 32-gallon carts or paper bags. Organics pickup is included with garbage service. If you don't have organic service and would like it, call Republic Services at **425-452-4762**.

Remember, there are also ways to reduce organic waste at home. Leave grass clippings on the lawn, for example. They are free fertilizer. Leaves can be composted on site or added to planting beds to build healthy soil. For more information, visit [www.bellevuewa.gov/naturalyardcare.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/naturalyardcare.htm)