

Calgary



How to use your carts



All the information you need for using
your green, blue and black carts.

contact 311 | calgary.ca/mywaste



The importance of sorting our waste

Using Calgary's three cart system is an important part of keeping our communities clean, protecting public health and managing our waste in a responsible and affordable way.



By recycling and composting, black cart garbage in Calgary has reduced **by 50%**

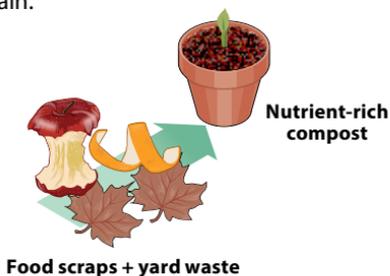
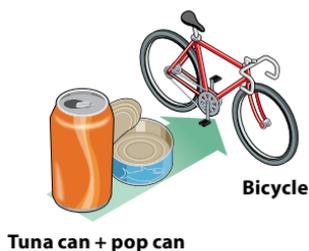
Conserve space in our landfills

By sorting our waste, we can conserve the valuable space left in our current City landfills and avoid future costs and challenges of building a new landfill.

In fact, by using your blue, green and black carts at home, you've saved a generation's worth of landfill space for future Calgarians to benefit from.

Turn what's old into something new again

Instead of burying valuable materials, your green and blue carts help us turn these resources into something new again.



Protect our land, air and water resources

Waste and the way we manage it is a significant contributor to climate change. For example, when food and yard waste is buried in the landfill, it doesn't break down or turn into soil or anything useful. It does create harmful emissions like methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) and leachate (a toxic liquid that needs to be treated). That means reducing our waste, recycling and composting are essential to managing our climate impact.



did you know?

Your Calgary recyclables really do get recycled. We work closely with our recycling partner, Cascades Recovery, to make sure recyclables are handled responsibly and sustainably. Learn more at calgary.ca/recyclefacts

Your collection schedule



Find out what days your carts are picked up at calgary.ca/collection

Sign up for free collection day reminders so you never miss a pickup day. You can get notifications by:



Email



Telephone



Download the **Calgary Garbage Day** app for your smartphone.

You will get a reminder before collection day. You'll also receive special alerts if there are any changes to your collection schedule.

How often carts are picked up

Carts need to be out by 7 a.m. on your collection day.



Your **blue cart** is picked up weekly.



Your **green cart** is picked up:
• April to October – weekly
• November to March – once every two weeks.



Your **black cart** is picked up once every two weeks as the majority of your waste can be composted or recycled.

Taking care of your carts

Carts are assigned to your residence. You are responsible for taking care of your carts and keeping them clean.

- Record your cart's serial numbers:

Blue: _____

Green: _____

Black: _____

- Write your address on the side of your carts.
- If your cart(s) are damaged or missing, **contact 311** for free repair or replacement. Carts with scratches, odours or are dirty, will not be replaced.
- If you move, do not take your carts with you. **Contact 311** if you need carts at your new residence.



Green Cart

Food and yard waste

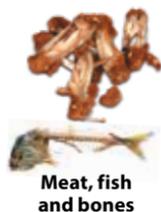


Yes. Put these compostables into your green cart.

Remember to include the food scraps from meal preparation, cleaning out the fridge and plate scrapings too.



Plate scrapings



Meat, fish and bones



Fruits and vegetables
Remove any stickers.



Bread and noodles



Cooking oil, sauces and grease

Tip: Use a paper towel to soak up any fats, oils or grease and put it in your green cart too.



Eggshells and dairy products



Coffee filters and tea bags



Food soiled paper

- Paper plates • Paper towel
- Napkins • Used tissues



Grass clippings

Use paper yard waste bags to prevent grass from sticking to your cart.



Branches

Should be smaller than 1.25 metres (4 ft.) and 15 cm (6") in diameter.



Sod and soil

Carts have a 60 kg weight limit. If you can easily roll your cart, that's ok.



Plants and weeds

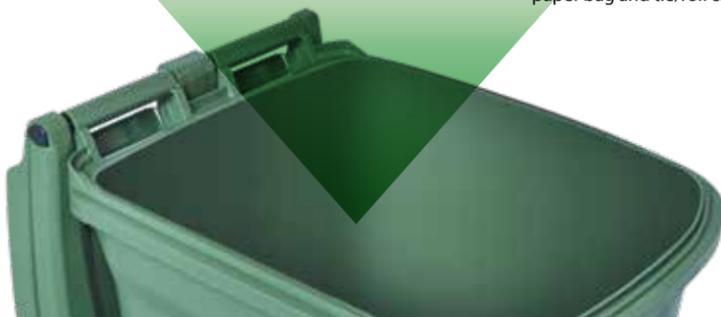


Leaves



Pet waste and kitty litter (all varieties)

Put in a certified compostable bag or paper bag and tie/roll closed.





⊗ No. Keep these items OUT of your green cart.

By keeping these items out of your green cart, you're doing your part to ensure we can produce the highest quality compost possible that will be used at local farms, gardens and in our community.



No plastic or biodegradable bags
If using a bag to line your kitchen pail, only use **certified compostable bags**



No food in packaging
Separate food scraps from container before composting



No plant pots or bedding trays
Separate plants and soil from container before composting.



No foam, plastic packaging, plates or cutlery
(even if they say compostable)



No diapers or wipes
(even if they say compostable)



No painted or treated wood



No compostable plastic packaging or containers



No fruit or vegetable stickers



No clothing, pillows or fabrics

If in doubt, check it out.
Go to calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere to find out where it can be composted, recycled or safely disposed.





Preparing your green cart

Make the green cart a part of your everyday routine.

In the kitchen



If you want to keep your pail tidier, **use compostable bags** or flyers to line your pail. Put all food scraps into the kitchen pail.



When your pail is full, empty it into your green cart. Empty your kitchen pail into your green cart every 2-3 days.

In the yard



Always fill your green cart first.

Yard waste can be put directly into the cart. You can also keep your cart tidier by filling paper yard waste bags and then putting into the cart.



When your green cart is full, fill paper yard waste bags with extra leaves, branches and yard waste. Roll the tops of the bags closed and place 0.5 m to the side of your green cart for pickup.

Yard waste tip: Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Clippings decompose within days and return valuable nutrients to the soil.

For your pets



Pet waste must be put in a **certified compostable bag** or paper bag for the safety of your collector. Place the tied up/rolled up bag in your green cart.



For larger pet waste cleanup, use a certified compostable kitchen bag or paper yard waste bag.



Using the right bags for your green cart



When buying compostable bags, look for these logos printed on the box and on the bags.



Why can't I use plastic bags or biodegradable bags?

These bags do not break down and end up as small pieces of plastic that will contaminate the finished compost. **Keep plastic out of the green cart.**

Visit calgary.ca/greencart for a list of bag options and retailers.



Paper yard waste bags

Yard waste bags are helpful to use for sticky material like grass clippings or for when your green cart is full. Make sure to roll the tops of the bags closed.

Yard waste in plastic bags will not be picked up.



Kitchen pails

If you need a kitchen pail, you can find them at grocery and big box stores like London Drugs and Canadian Tire. You can also reuse any container with a lid like an ice cream bucket. Paper bags, flyers and newspaper can also be used to line your kitchen pail.

Please note: The City does not provide replacement pails.



Blue Cart
Recycling



Yes. Put these recyclables loose into your blue cart.

See special instructions below for items such as **shredded paper** and **bundled plastic bags**.

Paper and cardboard



Containers such as jugs, bottles, cartons, cans and other rigid containers.



**Containers made of glass –
Food jars and bottles**



Containers made of plastic
Labeled with recycling symbols 1–7.



**Containers made of tin –
Food cans and tin foil**



Bundled stretchy plastic bags and cling wrap

Bundle all stretchy plastic bags, bubble wrap and cling wrap into a single plastic bag and securely tie closed.

Why? Loose bags get stuck in the sorting machines. They need to be bagged together so the workers can sort them properly.



Shredded paper

Place shredded paper in a see-through plastic bag and tie closed.





No. Keep these items OUT of your blue cart.

Keep our workers and equipment safe by leaving these items out of your recycling. They can injure a worker, damage equipment, cause a fire at the recycling facility or spoil the quality of good recyclables.



No household hazardous waste

If an item has a hazard symbol, then it must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off, even if it's empty. Find locations at calgary.ca/hhw



No metal household goods

For recycling drop-off locations visit calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere



No household goods, clothes or toys



No bagged recyclables Except for a bag that contains shredded paper, or a bag that contains other plastic bags, bubble wrap and plastic wrap.



No foam containers or foam packaging (even if it has a recycling symbol)



No mixed packaging



No electronics

For recycling drop-off locations visit calgary.ca/electronics



No batteries



No needles or syringes

If in doubt, check it out.
Go to calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere to find out where it can be composted, recycled or safely disposed.





How to prepare your recyclables

Bundle all stretchy plastic bags into a **single plastic bag** and securely tie closed before recycling.

This includes:

- Plastic grocery bags
- Ziploc® bags
- Bread bags
- Shopping bags
- Produce bags
- Plastic bubble mailer
- Bubble wrap
- Saran™ wrap
- Plastic overwrap (wrapping on toilet paper rolls, water bottle cases)



How to bundle your bags together

Set up an area in your home to make it easier to bag your bags.

- Hang a hook inside a cabinet door to hold bags.
- Hang an empty bag on a door handle.
- Clip an empty bag to the side of your indoor recycling bin.
- Use a bag dispenser to store your bags.

Fill the bag with your stretchy plastic bags and plastic wrap when you are finished using them. Once your bag is full, securely tie it closed and put in your blue cart. Start over with a new bag and fill up.

Why do bags have to be bagged together?

Most of the recycling is sorted by machines, but plastic bags need to be separated out by hand. Bundling all your bags together ensures that the workers are able to separate out the bags and so they stay clean for recycling.

Loose bags are too difficult to gather by hand, jam up equipment in the recycling facility, ruin the quality of the good recyclables and end up as contamination that has to go to the landfill instead.



did you know?

Stretch test: If the plastic bag or wrap stretches (like a grocery bag) it can be recycled; if the bag is crinkly or tears (like a chip bag or cellophane), it's not recyclable.



Recyclables must be:

Empty

- Remove lids and caps off containers.
- Pour out liquids and scrape out food bits.

Clean

- Rinse out all food containers.
- Labels can be left on jars and cans.

Dry

- Put all recyclables inside the blue cart for pickup.
- Keep cart lid closed and clear snow off the lid of your blue cart in winter.



Bag your shredded paper.

Bundle your stretchy plastic bags and wrap.

Put all bags into one bag and securely tie closed.



Keep other recyclables loose

Do not use blue recycling bags or garbage bags. Put the rest of your recycling in loose – all recyclables must be inside the blue cart for pickup.



Break down boxes to make more room in your blue cart.





Electronics recycling

Unwanted computers, televisions and other electronics can be recycled at the three City landfills and other participating locations. Do not put these items in your blue, green or black carts.

To find City-approved drop-off locations to recycle your electronics, visit calgary.ca/electronics



Laptops and tablets



Network equipment
Modems, network switches,
cable boxes, routers



TV and monitors
All sizes



Desktop, notebook computers and servers
Keyboards, cables,
speakers and mice



Printers, copiers and fax machines
Units up to 1,000 kg

Microwaves



Gaming consoles
Joysticks, gaming controllers,
headsets, remotes



Cell phones



Home audio/video
Media players, projectors, VCRs, radios,
stereos, cassette players, boom boxes



Household Hazardous Waste – residential drop-offs

Paint, motor oil, propane tanks and aerosols **don't belong in any cart**. These household chemicals need to be disposed of safely by bringing to a designated fire station or City landfill.

Find a full list of acceptable items at calgary.ca/hhw



If a product has any of these hazard symbols, it's hazardous waste.



Automotive products



Paints and stains



Pressurized tanks and bear spray



Cleaning and health care products



Compact fluorescent light bulbs and tubes
(4 ft or less)



Yard and garden products

Package and label properly

Before you drop off your household chemicals:

- Make sure your container has a lid and it's on tight. The label must be readable.
- Keep material in the original container so staff know how to safely handle the contents.
- If you use a different container:
 - Pick a sturdy leak-proof container like an empty bleach bottle. Avoid thin plastic containers like pop bottles or milk jugs.
 - Label the container clearly.

Take your properly packaged chemicals to your nearest household hazardous waste drop-off – find locations at calgary.ca/hhw





Other options for managing your waste

As you're cleaning out your home, garage and basement, you might come across items that you no longer want or need. Here are some other ways to manage the waste that doesn't belong in the carts.



Community cleanups

Each year, The City partners with community associations to help residents get rid of unwanted household items and property waste.

For dates and locations visit calgary.ca/cleanup



Items that are still usable

For household goods that are still in good condition, consider:

- Posting on online websites like Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace.
- Gift items to family, friends and neighbors
- Donate to a local charity. Find options online at calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere

Large furniture disposal

Bring large items to a City landfill Throw 'n' Go for disposal (charges will apply). City landfills offer a convenient one-stop location to bring all kinds of waste that doesn't fit in your carts or doesn't belong in the carts.

For hours, fees and locations, visit calgary.ca/landfill



- Mattresses
- Vacuums
- Refrigerators and freezers
- Barbecues (BBQ), lawnmowers
- Yard waste
- Couches and sofas
- Tables, chairs, cabinets, drawers
- Dishwashers, washers, stoves, dryers
- Construction and demolition materials
- Oversized items and garbage



Household batteries

Batteries are full of chemicals so they don't belong in any cart. They have caused serious fires and damage at the recycling facility and City landfills.

Safely dispose of household batteries by taking to a proper battery retail drop-off. Find a location near you at calgary.ca/battery



Used clothing, shoes and fabrics

Donate usable clothing, shoes and fabrics. Contact local charities to find out what type of textiles they accept.

- Diabetes Canada
- Cerebral Palsy
- Kidney Clothes Centre
- Calgary Drop In
- Women in Need Society
- Clothing for a Cause



City textile recycling program

The City's textile recycling program accepts any clothing, shoes, pillows and fabrics (including ripped and damaged textiles). Bring to a City landfill Throw 'n' Go (free if you have no other garbage in your load).

Place items inside a bag before dropping off at the City Throw 'n' Go. This helps keep the clothing dry and makes it easier to collect.

Find out more info at calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere



Tire recycling program

All kinds of vehicle tires, including rims can be brought to a City landfill Throw 'n' Go (free if you have no other garbage in your load). If you have more than 12 tires, they must be brought to the Shepard Landfill.

See more details at calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere





Black Cart Garbage



Yes. Put these items in your garbage.

After reusing, composting and recycling, you will easily cut your garbage in half. Only items that have reached the end of their useful life should go in the garbage.



Mixed packaging and non-stretchy bags
Even if it has a recycling symbol.



Foam containers or foam packaging
Even if it has a recycling symbol.



Garden hoses



Used diapers and wipes



Painted and treated wood
(small quantities)



**Plastic plates, cutlery
and straws**



**Vacuum cleaner dirt and
dryer lint**



Small broken appliances



Lotion and toothpaste tubes



Furnace filters



Drink lids
Even if it has a recycling symbol.

Properly package and bag materials

- Sharp objects (e.g. broken mirrors or needles) need to be put in a puncture resistant container such as a plastic tub to prevent injuries to your driver. Seal tightly and place in your black cart.
- Dusty materials (e.g. vacuum dust) need to be double bagged for dust control. Tie the bag closed and place it in your black cart.



No. Keep these items OUT of your garbage.

For the safety of your collector and to prevent damage to the collection truck, the following items are not accepted in any of your carts.



No household hazardous waste

If an item has a hazard symbol, then it must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off, even if it's empty. Find locations at calgary.ca/hhw



No large electronics or appliances

For recycling drop-off locations visit calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere



No oversized items

(e.g. items longer than 1.25 metres or heavier than 20 kilograms).



No automobile waste

(including car parts, tires and batteries)



No large quantities of construction or building materials



No batteries



No unbagged items left outside of the cart.

If you have extra garbage, it must be bagged using standard-sized garbage bags. A garbage tag is required for extra bags put out beside your black cart. More info at calgary.ca/garbagetag





Cart placement Spacing Requirements

Placing your carts

Carts must be out by **7 a.m.** on your collection day.

Place the carts on flat ground, not on a raised platform. If you have front street collection, make sure the cart wheels are placed against the curb.

Spacing your carts

Leave enough space between, above and around all sides of your carts – this ensures carts can be safely collected.

If you can easily walk between and around your carts, that's enough space.

Keep carts away from fences, vehicles, poles, electrical wires and overhanging trees.

Why is space needed?

The automated arm on the collection trucks needs lots of space to work safely. The arm can span as wide as 2.5 metres and goes as high as 3 metres in the air.

Putting your carts out the right way means we can pick up the carts safely for you and your neighbors.

Storing your carts

Carts must be put away on non-pickup days. Pull your carts back onto your property by **7 p.m.** on your collection day. Only put your carts out as needed on pickup days.



0.5 metres (2 feet) between carts.



1 metre (3 feet) away from poles and vehicles.



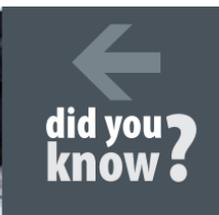
3 metres (10 feet) of clearance above carts.



0.5 metres (2 feet) space behind carts.



Store your carts on your property by **7 p.m.**



Winter tips Clear snow off your blue cart lid to keep recyclables dry. Keep cart area clear of snow and ice to prevent carts from freezing to the ground. Find more tips at calgary.ca/cartplacement



Filling your carts

- Fill your carts and make sure the lids are mostly closed.
- Make sure the material isn't packed in too tightly so it will fall out of the cart.
- Carts have a 60 kg weight limit. If they can roll easily, it's ok.

Extra yard waste

When your green cart is full, fill paper yard waste bags and roll top of bags closed.

Set bags at least **0.5 m (2ft)** to the side of your cart. There are no additional charges for picking up extra yard waste bags. Be sure the bags can be easily lifted – maximum bag weight is **20 kg (44 lb)**.



Extra recycling

Extra bags are not accepted – all recyclables must be inside the blue cart.

- Break down boxes to make more room in your blue cart.
- Take your extra recycling materials to a community recycling depot.
- Save extra recyclables for the following week's pickup.

Why? Exposure to rain and snow reduces the quality of recyclables and creates a problem with litter. That's why we only collect recyclables that fit inside the blue cart.



Extra garbage

Your black cart can hold three or four bags of garbage.

If your black cart is full, you need to buy tags to put on extra garbage bags for pickup. More info at calgary.ca/garbagetag.

Place tagged garbage bags at least 0.5 m (2 ft) to the side of your cart. Be sure the bags can be easily lifted – maximum bag weight is 20 kg (44 lb).

You can also save extra garbage to put inside your black cart for the next pickup.





Quick Reference Guide



Green Cart
Food and yard waste



Blue Cart
Recycling



Black Cart
Garbage

Other Disposal Options

Food scraps



Yard waste



Food-soiled paper



Pet waste (in a compostable bag)



Paper and cardboard



Plastic containers



Bundled plastic bags



Food cans and foil



Glass jars and bottles



Foam packaging



Rubber hoses



Mixed packaging



Diapers



Plastic cutlery and straws



Lotion and toothpaste tubes



Household hazardous waste



Electronics



Batteries



Clothing



If in doubt, check it out.

Find recycling, composting and safe disposal answers for hundreds of items at calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere



Get your schedule and reminders so you never miss a collection day at calgary.ca/collection



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