

## **Keep it clean - Green Bin Tips for your Organics Tote Food Scraps and Yard Waste**

1. Line your Green Bin with flyers, a couple sheets of newspaper, an origami bin liner, or yard waste paper bags to keep it clean.
2. Alternate a layer of food scraps with a layer of leaves, grass clippings, or dead plants.
3. Rinse your green bin with a garden hose from time to time, especially if you don't line your bin with paper. You can also rinse your bin with lemon juice, vinegar, a mild detergent, or baking soda to reduce odours and keep bugs out.
4. Keep your meat or fish scraps in the refrigerator or freezer until collection day in order to avoid maggots and odours. If maggots do appear, put salt or vinegar on them, to kill them.
5. Drain excess liquids from your food scraps before putting them in your kitchen container.
6. Paper coffee cups can go in your green bin. They can be used to hold cooking grease or kitchen sink gunk before you put these things in your green bin.
7. Use empty cardboard cereal, cracker and cookie boxes to collect food scraps in your kitchen. Most of them fit in your kitchen bin.
8. Spray your green bin with cooking oil in the winter to minimize risk of items freezing to the bin and ensure easy removal of waste.

### **What not to do**

**The Green Bin program does not accept any kind of plastic bags, including compostable or biodegradable plastic bin liners.**

### **Need paper liners for the green bin or kitchen container?**

While it isn't necessary, you can buy commercial bin liners at local retailers or you can use alternatives, such as the ones listed below.

1. Use newspaper or any other paper-based product (like cereal boxes or waxed milk cartons) to line the bottom of your container(s).
2. Make an origami bin liner from old newspaper. (Google to find a pattern.) Get the kids involved and have fun with it.