

Green Waste at Espana – Transforming Waste into Food - FAQs



WHAT ARE FOOD SCRAPS?

- Anything you can eat; organic scraps left over from preparing and cooking food.

WHY RECYCLE FOOD SCRAPS?

- In landfills, rotting food produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas which is very harmful to the environment. **70% of Metro Vancouver's methane is produced by our landfills.** When composted properly, food that breaks down can turn into soil or bio-fuel and does not produce methane.
- Since approximately **40–50% of household waste is food scraps**, if we can divert this from the landfills, we will decrease the garbage that goes to the landfill.

CAN'T I JUST USE THE GARBURATOR?

- Garburators are harmful to water ecology and overload our water pipes. The overload of solids in our sewer lines and treatment plants means more chemical and energy usage for treatment. Once the kitchen debris is screened out at the treatment plants, it gets trucked to the landfill where it produces methane (a powerful greenhouse gas that is harmful to the environment).

WHY IS FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING IN PLACE AT ESPANA NOW?

- There will be a bylaw starting January 1 2015 to mandate food scraps recycling, we are getting a head start to slowly phase in and ensure a successful program with full building participation.
- A successful program will mean less garbage pick-ups. Since the tipping fees for landfill garbage is higher than that of food scraps, this should save us money in the long run, plus all the environmental benefits.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED IN THE FOOD SCRAP BINS?

- All food: fruit, vegetables, plant clippings, meat, bones, coffee grinds, eggshells. Tear out soiled parts of a pizza box and toss in the Food Scraps bin (small pieces will not tear the bin liner), and recycle the clean uncontaminated parts of the box in the Mixed Paper bin.
- See the attached graphic for what goes in and what doesn't.

CAN I USE A PLASTIC BAG TO LINE MY CONTAINER AND THROW IT OUT WITH THE FOOD SCRAPS?

- No, plastic bags are not compostable – if you carry your food scraps in a plastic bag to the garbage room, be sure to empty the food scraps in the food scraps collection bins and dispose of the plastic bag appropriately. If you would like to use a bag to line your container and throw into the bin, you must use a compostable liner bag. You can use paper bags.

- Lining your food scraps container with newsprint or freezing food scraps until ready to deposit will reduce smells and fruit flies. You can deposit the newsprint into the large bin.

WHERE ARE THE FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION BINS?

- Large green bins will be in both recycling rooms starting December 1, 2014.

HOW SHOULD I COLLECT THE FOOD SCRAPS?

- Kits including containers and compostable bags can be purchased from the concierge. You can use an ice cream bucket, or purchase a kitchen catcher. London Drugs, Canadian Tire, Lee Valley, Home Depot all carry kitchen catchers.
- If necessary, cut up food scraps to fit in your kitchen container.

HOW DO I ELIMINATE ODOURS IN MY KITCHEN?

- Take out your trash and food scraps often.
- Keep the contents dry to eliminate odors; add used paper towels/tissues and shredded newspaper, coffee grinds or baking soda to help absorb the moisture.
- If you anticipate not being able to take your food scraps down to empty for more than a few days, we recommend freezing meat scraps, wrapped in newspaper. Raw fruit and vegetable scraps can keep under lid problem free for days without refrigeration.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT ODOURS AND FLIES IN THE RECYCLING AND GARBAGE ROOM?

- Layer the bin with newsprint and close the lid after you deposit your food scraps.

WHAT IF THE FOOD SCRAPS BIN IS FULL?

- We will monitor the volume in the bins and increase the number of bins as needed.
- Please alert the concierge if you notice the bins are full.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- **Email the Espana Green Team** <espanagreenteam@gmail.com>. Please note this is not monitored daily, but the Green Team will respond to inquiries as soon as possible. If your question or concern is urgent, please contact the office or concierge.
- [City of Vancouver Green Bin Program](#), [Metro Vancouver](#), and this [video](#).
- [Breaking up with Your Garburator](#) post on the David Suzuki Foundation website.

Thank you for your commitment to this program that will benefit us all!

What Goes In? What Doesn't?

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|---|---|---|
|  |  | <p>Plastic Bags (Including compostable or biodegradable)</p> |
|  |  | <p>Twist Ties, Elastic Bands & Plastic or Foil Wrappers</p> |
|  |  | <p>Diapers</p> |
|  |  | <p>Pet Waste & Cat Litter</p> |

 **Only small amounts of oil and grease are allowed** (In food, soaked into paper towels or newspaper).

ਭੋਜਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਰਤਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਓਲੀ ਅਤੇ ਗ੍ਰੇਸ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਛੋਟੀ ਮਾਤਰਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੀ ਸੁੱਟਣ ਦੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਹੈ (ਖਾਣੇ ਦੇ ਪਾਕੈਟਾਂ, ਪੇਪਰ ਟਾਵਲਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਅਖਬਾਰੀ ਕਾਗਜ਼ਾਂ 'ਚ ਸੀਮੀ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ)। ਖਾਣੇ ਪਕਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਵਰਤੇ ਗਏ ਓਲੀ ਅਤੇ ਗ੍ਰੇਸ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਛੋਟੀ ਮਾਤਰਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੀ ਸੁੱਟਣ ਦੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਹੈ। ਖਾਣੇ ਪਕਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਵਰਤੇ ਗਏ ਓਲੀ ਅਤੇ ਗ੍ਰੇਸ਼ ਨੂੰ ਕੰਟੇਨਰਾਂ 'ਚ ਪਾਉਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਗਾਰਬੇਜ਼ 'ਚ ਰੱਖ ਦੇਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ।

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|  |  | <p>Plate scrapings</p> |
|  |  | <p>Meat & Bones</p> |
|  |  | <p>Noodles, Pasta, Grains & Bread</p> |
|  |  | <p>Fish, Seafood & Shells</p> |
|  |  | <p>Fruits & Vegetables</p> |
|  |  | <p>Eggs & Dairy</p> |
|  |  | <p>Coffee Filters, Coffee Grounds & Tea Bags</p> |
|  |  | <p>Food-Soiled Paper</p> |
|  |  | <p>Yard Trimmings</p> |