

Yard+Food Waste Collection Basics



City of Auburn
Waste Management
Solid Waste & Recycling
253-939-9792
www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn

Did you know?



- ▶ About 35% of household garbage is food waste that goes to the landfill. In the landfill, food waste decomposes creating methane gas, a potent pollutant. Landfills are the third-largest source of methane gas. Separating food waste from the garbage helps reduce the production of methane gas.
- ▶ When food goes to the landfill all the energy and water needed to grow, process and transport food is lost.

Did you know?



There is a great solution!

- ▶ Instead put food scraps and food-soiled paper in your green yard+food waste Cart. This material is taken to a local high-tech facility, where it is processed into nutrient rich compost for use in local yards and gardens.
- ▶ Take a virtual tour and learn how compost is made: [Cedar Grove Composting Facility](#), located in Maple Valley, WA. (6:27 minutes)

Yard+Food Waste Cart



Do you currently have Yard+Food Waste collection service?

- ▶ **Yes:** You are ready to go! Check out this presentation, follow the helpful tips, and start putting food scraps into your yard+food waste cart today.
- ▶ **No:** Sign up for service by contacting Waste Management at 253-939-9792.

Yard+Food Waste Cart Tips

Begin collecting food scraps from your kitchen.

- ▶ For easy collection use a kitchen food scrap container. A variety of containers can be used to collect food scraps:
 - ❑ Reusable items make great kitchen scrap containers. Use a lidded container such as a glass or metal bowl, or an old cooking pot or plastic food container (example: a yogurt container or ice cream tub).
 - ❑ Purchase a kitchen food scrap container from a local retailer or online.
- ▶ When your kitchen food scrap container is full, the entire contents can be emptied into your curbside yard+food waste cart. Then rinse the kitchen container and reuse!



Yard+Food Waste Cart Tips

Kitchen Container Liners: Optional, but helpful!

Before putting food waste into your lidded kitchen food scrap container, consider lining it. Use compostable items such as newspaper, paper, a paper bag or an approved compostable bag as a liner.

Lining your kitchen food scrap container will:

- ▶ Make it easier to empty your kitchen food scrap container into your outdoor Yard+Food Waste Cart.
- ▶ Help make clean up easier! A liner helps keep food waste from sticking to the inside of the kitchen food scrap container.



Yard+Food Waste Cart Tips

- ▶ Compostable bags can be purchased at many retailers, grocers or online.
 - ❑ Visit the www.recyclefood.com for a list of approved compostable bags.
- ▶ Please put your cart on the curb by 7:00am on your service day.



Yard+Food Waste Cart Tips

Follow these important tips so your yard and food waste will not get trashed!

NOT ACCEPTED in the Yard+Food Waste cart:

- ▶ Any plastic material
- ▶ Garbage
- ▶ Plastic “bagged” yard+food waste
 - ❑ If you collect yard or food waste in a plastic bag, empty material out of the plastic bag into your cart. Throw the plastic bag into the garbage or reuse it.
- ▶ Fats, oils or grease
 - ❑ Put these into a lidded container and put the container in the garbage.
 - ❑ Recycled used cooking oil at the collection site located at Les Gove Park (by the water spray park), 910 9th ST SE. Open during day light hours. Pour oil into container. Take your containers home with you.



Yard+Food Cart Waste Tips

► Have extra yard waste?

Yard waste in excess of your current monthly service level (lid must be closed) will incur extra charges. Visit www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn for rate information.

Put extra yard waste next to your yard+food waste cart in these containers labeled “Yard”:

- ❑ 32-gallon can with a lid and handles (65 lb. limit).
- ❑ Approved paper yard waste bags (available at hardware stores)
- ❑ Bundles tied with natural twine, (4' x 2' limit), place next to the Yard+Food Waste Cart on collection day.
- ❑ No plastic bags or *food scraps in customer-owned containers.

*For health and safety reasons, food waste must be put into the City of Auburn provided Yard+Food Waste Cart, not in customer-owned containers.

What goes into the Yard+Food Waste Cart?

Yard and Plant Waste

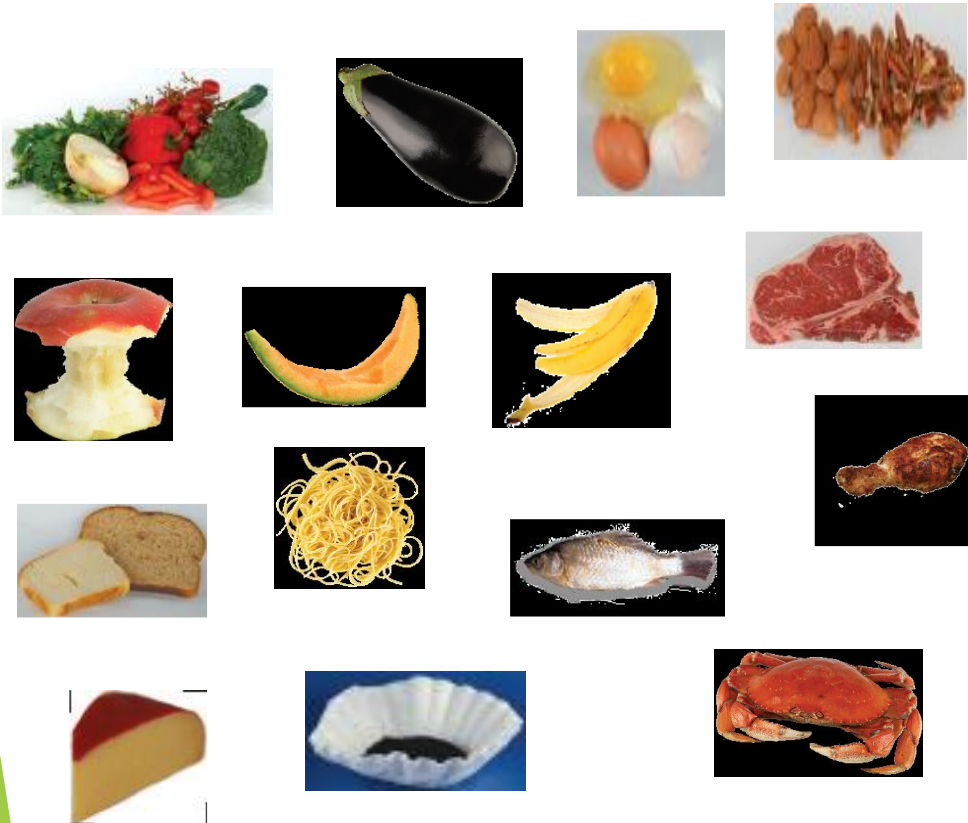


Preparation tips:

- ▶ Put compostable materials from your yard and garden in your cart including:
 - ❑ Grass clippings, weeds, plants
 - ❑ Leaves
 - ❑ Flowers
 - ❑ Trees, including Christmas trees (size limit: cut into 4-foot sections, must be smaller than 4-inches in diameter)
 - ❑ Branches (size limit: cut into 4-foot sections, must be smaller than 4-inches in diameter)
- ▶ Remove and dispose of plastic pots, twine, gardening tape, twist ties, etc.
- ▶ No plastics of any type in the yard+food waste Cart.

What goes into the Yard+Food Waste Cart?

Food Waste & Kitchen Scraps



Preparation tips:

- ▶ Put compostable materials from your kitchen into your cart including:
 - ☐ Vegetables
 - ☐ Fruit
 - ☐ Meat & Fish
 - ☐ Bread, pasta, cereal
 - ☐ Egg shells
 - ☐ Coffee grounds (coffee filter is ok) and non-plastic tea bags
- ▶ Remove produce stickers and put them in the garbage.
- ▶ No plastics of any type in the Yard+Food Waste Cart.

What goes into the Yard+Food Waste Cart?

Food-Soiled Paper



Preparation tips:

- ▶ Food-soiled paper is acceptable.
 - ❑ Food soiled paper (pizza boxes, napkins, paper towels)
 - ❑ Paper plates (must be uncoated, not shiny or plastic lined)
 - ❑ Egg cartons and berry containers
 - ❑ Paper bags
- ▶ NO plastics of any type.
- ▶ NO shredded paper (bag and place into garbage).
- ▶ Remove stickers and any plastics from inside pizza boxes (put stickers and plastics into the garbage).

More helpful resources!

► Food: Too good to Waste

- Learn how to reduce food waste, and save money, by following these helpful smart shopping, prep and storage tips: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/waste-prevention/food-too-good-to-waste.aspx>

► Food donations: Ever had food left over from a large gathering or party? Consider helping your neighbors by donating extra edible food to the Auburn Food Bank: www.theauburnfoodbank.org/

► Backyard composting, worm bins and more are great ways to reduce waste, visit: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/garbage-recycling/compost-more.aspx>

► For more information and resources visit our website at: www.auburnwa.gov/solidwaste

Thank you for viewing our presentation and for putting the correct items into the Yard+Food Waste Cart.

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