

CURBSIDE FOOD SCRAPS PROGRAM

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Include the Food!

Now you can recycle food scraps with your yard trimmings every week. Program starts the week of July 17, 2017

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Your "yard trimmings cart" is now called the "compost cart."
- Include food scraps and food-soiled paper with yard trimmings.
- Use the complimentary kitchen pail, with or without a compostable/paper liner.
- Empty the kitchen pail regularly into your compost cart.
- Set out the compost cart weekly on your regular collection day.
- Collection schedules remain the same for garbage and recycling carts.



Information

www.mountainview.gov/foodscraps
recycle@mountainview.gov
(650) 903-6311

Collection and Carts

Recology: (650) 967-3034



HOW TO GUIDE

Compostables collection is now weekly

1 Collect food scraps and food-soiled paper in kitchen pail and keep lid closed. Line pail using compostable bag, paper towel, newspaper, paper bag or no bag (please, no plastic bag).



2 Empty food scraps and food-soiled paper into the compost cart.



3 Set out compost cart for weekly pickup on your regular collection day.

TIPS FOR CARTS

These tips will help you to reduce odors, prevent pests, and keep containers clean.

- Lining your kitchen pail or cart is not required, but the liner must be made of compostable or paper materials to decompose (no plastic).
- If there are no yard trimmings in the cart, layer some newspaper, paper bags or cardboard in the bottom to absorb moisture.
- Try to pick up fallen fruit weekly and add to cart to avoid harboring pests.
- Keep the cart lid closed to prevent birds and animals from scavenging and making a mess.
- Set out your cart every week for collection, even if not full. Store cart so it is screened from street view, and keep in a shady spot in hot weather.
- Sprinkle baking soda in your cart to deodorize. If needed, lightly rinse out cart with mild soap, water, or a mild vinegar solution to discourage pests. Empty water on the lawn or planter, not down the storm drain.
- As shown in step 3 (at left), If you have more materials than will fit in the cart, put ALL the food scraps inside the cart. Put any extra yard trimmings in either a lawn/leaf paper bag or a plastic trash can (limit 2 extra containers, each no more than 32-gallons and 50 pounds).

Don't have a yard trimmings (compost) cart?

To order a cart call Recology at **(650) 967-3034** or email **ContactUsRMV@recology.com**. For townhomes and rowhouses that don't generate yard trimmings, a small 24-gallon compost cart is available.

Have extra carts to return?

Now that compostables collection will be weekly, you may have extra yard trimmings carts you no longer need. Please call Recology at **(650) 967-3034** or email **ContactUsRMV@recology.com** to have the carts picked up.

IN THE KITCHEN



KITCHEN COUNTER PAIL ALTERNATIVES: Use a pail, pitcher, coffee can, cereal box (remove plastic bag) or other container that suits your needs and counter space. If needed, line container with compostable bag or paper towel. [Please no milk or ice cream cartons.]



CONTAINERS: Many attractive containers are available for purchase at local stores that sell kitchen supplies. Look for containers with internal dividers. If you have a lot of food scraps and food-soiled paper, swap out your old garbage can for compost. Line with a 13-gallon compostable bag. Add a second container or paper bag for remaining trash.



BAGS: Bags are available in 3 and 13 gallon sizes at local retailers and some grocery stores (visit www.mountainview.gov/foodscraps for a list of local retailers). Use only bags certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) with this symbol. ▶ No plastic bags—they do not compost.



TIPS FOR PAILS

- Keep your kitchen pail in a convenient location on the counter, under the sink, or in the freezer.
- For a cleaner and easier to empty pail, line with compostable bag, paper bag, newspaper, or waxed paper. Please no plastic bags—they do not compost.
- Place food scraps in the pail while cooking or cleaning up after meals.
- Use the garbage disposal only for liquids such as soups and sauces. (See FAQ, pg. 4)



- Freeze spoiled foods until collection day. Remove packaging first.
- Rinse pail with soap and water weekly. Pail is dishwasher safe. Spray or rub lid with vinegar to deter fruit flies.
- Empty the pail into the compost cart regularly, no less than weekly.

Not using your pail?

Return only unused pails to: Mountain View Recycling Center, 935 Terra Bella Avenue, or Mountain View City Hall, Public Works Dept., 1st Floor, 500 Castro Street

FROM CART TO COMPOST

Keeping food and paper out of the landfill reduces greenhouse gas emissions and gives these valuable resources a second useful life as compost for landscape growers.



- 1 After collection, the materials in your cart are transported to a commercial composting facility. They are ground up into small pieces and moved into large piles.
- 2 Microorganisms break down the materials and heat the pile to very high temperatures.
- 3 In about 3 months, the microorganisms transform the pile into an earthy, soil-like material called compost. The compost is used for many different landscape applications.
- 4 The compost available at the SMaRT Station® is free and suitable for home landscaping. Call **(408) 752-8530** for limits and to check daily supply.

Important—Keep it Clean

Unaccepted items (like plastic bags/wrap, compostable plastics [PLA] foodware, glass and metal containers) do not break down naturally and may cause significant problems during the composting process. It is important to keep these items out of the cart so they do not contaminate the compost. See list of *What Goes Where* on the enclosed insert.

Why can't I just use my garbage disposal for food scraps?

The kitchen "garbage" disposal is intended for liquid wastes and small bits of food residue from dish washing. Food often contains fats, oils and grease that are the cause of most residential sanitary sewer backups. The water treatment plant strongly discourages using the disposal for food scraps because it unnecessarily creates more organic waste for expensive treatment, and the resulting sludge must be incinerated and landfilled. Disposals also require gallons of water to flush and energy to operate – not a good use of our drinking water or electrical grid. Composting food scraps is less expensive than treatment and more environmentally friendly.



Already a Backyard Composter?

Great! This free curbside program allows you to compost meat, dairy and food-soiled paper products that aren't recommended for backyard bins. Visit www.ucanr.edu/compost for schedule of backyard composting classes and registration.