

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.

Conserve space in our landfills

Building a new landfill is an expensive process. The cost to buy land, design and build an engineered landfill, insure long-term landfill liabilities and operate the landfill over 25 years is estimated at \$1.5 billion.

New landfill applications continue to be largely unsuccessful because of increasingly stringent regulations combined with the fact that nobody wants a landfill in their backyard. By recycling and composting, we can conserve the valuable space left in our current landfills and avoid future costs.

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.

- The food and yard waste you put in your green cart is turned into a high quality compost to enrich the soil in gardens, community parks and local farms.
- The paper, cardboard, plastic containers, food cans and glass bottles in the blue cart program get manufactured into an endless number of new products.

Protect our land, air and water resources

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). By composting, we are able to reduce reliance on expensive landfill engineering systems and protect public health.



→ **did you know?**

The paper and cardboard recycled through the Blue Cart program saves over **one million trees** a year.

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:



Text message



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 cosmetic damage, 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 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



Eggshells and dairy products



Coffee filters and tea bags



Food soiled paper
• Paper plates • Paper towel
• Napkins • Used tissues



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.



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

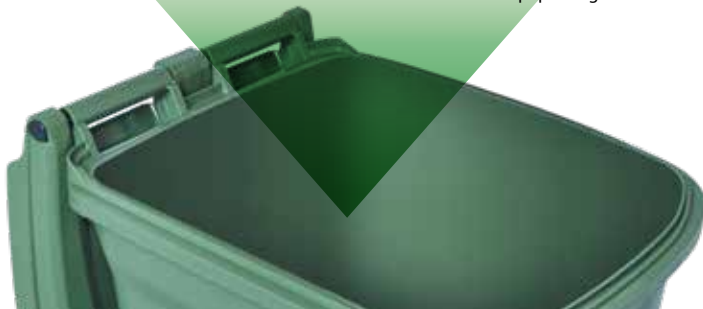


Leaves



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 or plastic packaging



No diapers or wipes

(even if they say compostable)



No painted or treated wood



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



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 kitchen pail 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 accepted.

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



Beverage containers

Refundable beverage containers can also be returned to bottle depots for deposit refunds.



Glass jars and bottles



Plastic containers

Labeled with recycling symbols 1-7.



Food cans and 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 items



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



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 electronics

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



No needles or syringes



No batteries



No shoes, clothing, toys or sporting goods

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
- 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's recyclable; if it does not stretch, is crinkly or tears (like a chip bag or cellophane), it's not recyclable.



Recyclables must be:

- Empty and clean
- Remove lids and caps.
- Pour out liquids and scrape out food bits.
- Rinse out all food containers.



Don't use blue recycling bags or garbage bags.



Do close the lid to keep recyclables dry.



Do clear snow off the lid of your blue cart in winter.



Labels can be left on jars and cans.



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

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.



Other programs

Electronics

Electronics recycling

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

For a full list of acceptable items and their associated drop-off locations, visit calgary.ca/electronics

Bring these items to an electronics recycling depot or City landfill



Other electronics that can **only** be recycled at City landfills

Bring the following electronics to a City landfill for recycling.





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 are 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 your waste.

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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

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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
-



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
-



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

Household batteries

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

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





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 automobile waste

(including car parts, tires and batteries)



No oversized items

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



No large quantities of construction or building materials



No unbagged items left outside of the cart.

If you have extra garbage, it must be bagged using standard-sized garbage bags. **Starting October 1, 2020, a garbage tag will be 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.

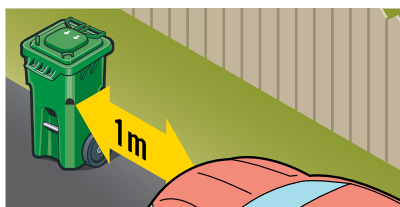
Putting your carts out the right way means we can pick up the carts safely for you and your neighbors.

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.**



←
**did you
know?**

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 bags of garbage.

If your black cart is full, set extra garbage bags at least **0.5 m (2ft)** to the side of your cart. Be sure the bags can be easily lifted – maximum bag weight is **20 kg (44 lb)**.

Starting **October 1, 2020**, garbage tags will be required on each additional bag of garbage left out for pickup. More info at calgary.ca/garbagetag

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





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



Toys



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

