

Calgary



New items
now accepted
in recycling!
See inside.

Waste Sorting Guide

How to properly **recycle**, **compost**
and **dispose** of household waste.



calgary.ca/mywaste | contact 311

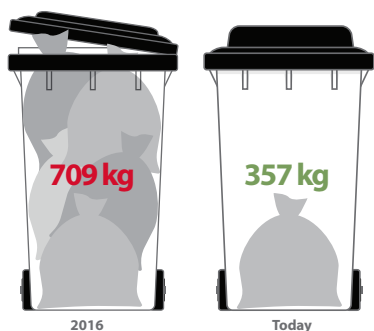
Welcome

Putting waste in the right place doesn't have to be complicated. Whether you're clearing out closets, tackling the junk drawer or cleaning up the yard, knowing what goes where helps keep more out of the landfill and gives materials a second life.

Why Sorting Matters

Calgary's cart and drop-off programs help keep our community clean, protect public health and ensure waste is managed responsibly. These programs:

- Save valuable landfill space by keeping recyclable and compostable materials out of the garbage.
- Protect land, air and water. Diverting food and yard waste helps reduce methane gas and harmful liquids generated in landfills.
- Turn used materials into new resources through recycling and composting.



Did you know?

Recycling and composting in Calgary has reduced black cart garbage by more than 50%.



Sorting Made Easy

Use What Goes Where — Calgary's free online tool — to quickly find recycling, compost and safe disposal options for hundreds of items.

calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere



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Your Collection Schedule

Find your pickup day and sign up for free reminders at calgary.ca/cartschedule

Get notified by:



Email



Telephone



Download the **Calgary Garbage Day** app.

You'll receive a reminder before collection day and alerts if your service is interrupted.

How Often Carts Are Picked Up



Blue cart
Weekly



Green cart
• Weekly from April to October
• Every two weeks from November to March



Black cart
• Every two weeks (Most of your waste can be composted or recycled)



Cart Placement

Putting your carts out the right way helps us collect them safely.

Placing your carts

- Put carts out by 7 a.m. on collection day.
- Place carts on flat ground.
- For front street collection, place carts with wheels against the curb.
- Close lids completely and keep each cart under 60 kg (132 lb). If the cart rolls easily, it's okay for collection.

Spacing your carts

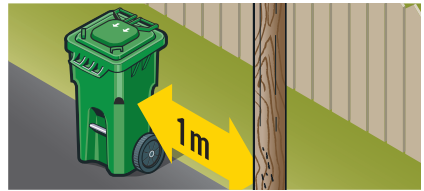
- Leave clear space between, above and around every cart so the truck's mechanical arm can work safely.
- Keep carts away from fences, vehicles, poles, electrical wires and overhanging trees.

Storing your carts

- Pull carts back by 7 p.m. on collection day and store them away on non-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

Cart placement, acceptable materials, weight limits and other collection requirements in this guide are established under Calgary's Waste Bylaw. Carts or materials that do not meet these requirements may not be collected. **Learn more at calgary.ca/mywaste.**



Taking care of your carts

- Write your **address** on the **side of each cart**.
- Keep carts clean and in good condition.
- If a cart is damaged or missing, **contact 311** for free repair or replacement. Leave cart empty and where it can be reached from the road or lane.
- Carts that are scratched, dirty or have odours **will not be replaced**.
- If you move, leave your carts behind. Contact 311 if carts are needed at your new address.



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.



YES. Put these items **loose** in your blue cart.

Plastic containers



Foam packaging



Plastic bags and wrappers



Paper and cardboard



Aerosols

Food and body aerosols.



Glass containers



Metal food containers





NO. Keep these out.

Help keep our workers and communities safe.

Don't put these items in your blue cart.

No bagged recyclables or garbage



No vapes or e-cigarettes



No electronics or batteries

No hazardous materials

Even if empty, these items must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off.

Find locations at calgary.ca/hhw.



No household goods



No construction materials



No needles or syringes



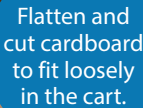


Recyclables must be:

CLEAN | Rinse containers and shake out excess water. Labels can stay on.

LOOSE | Do not bundle or bag recyclables. Place them loose in the cart.

The exception is shredded paper, which should be placed in a clear plastic bag.





Tips and Reminders

- **Extra recycling bags are not collected.**
Drop off extra recycling at a community recycling depot or save materials for your next blue cart pickup.
- Do not pack materials too tightly; they need to fall out during collection.
- Keep the lid closed. Rain and snow reduce the quality of recyclables, and open lids contribute to litter.



Curious About Where Recyclables Go?



The City of Calgary works closely with local recycling partners to help ensure recyclables are managed responsibly and sustainably.

Learn more at
calgary.ca/whyrecyclingmatters.



Need more help?

Use What Goes Where to search recycling, compost and safe disposal options for hundreds of items.

calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere





YES. Put these items in your green cart.

Plate scrapings, leftovers, raw, cooked and moldy food



Bread, rice and noodles



Fruits and vegetables
Remove any stickers.



Meat, fish and bones
Raw and cooked.



Food-dirty paper
Paper plates, paper towels, napkins and used tissues.



Eggshells and dairy



Coffee grounds and tea bags



Cooking oil, sauces and grease
Let cool and soak up with used napkins.



Plants and flowers



Grass clippings, sod and soil

Carts have a 60 kg weight limit.



Leaves and branches



Pet waste and kitty litter

In a certified compostable or paper bag.





NO. Keep these out.

Keeping these items out of your green cart helps create high-quality compost used locally in farms and gardens.

No plastic or biodegradable bags
Use only certified compostable bags.



No packaging materials
Even if they are labelled biodegradable.



No diapers or personal hygiene items



No painted or treated wood



No fruit or vegetable stickers



No clothing, textiles or fabrics



No plastic or foam servicewear





How to Prepare Items

- Separate food from all packaging.
- For easy cleanup, line your kitchen pail with certified compostable bags, paper bags or flyers.
- Empty the kitchen pail into the green cart every two or three days.
- Put yard waste directly in the cart, loose or in paper yard-waste bags, and close the lid.
- Put pet waste in a certified compostable or paper bag, tie or roll it closed for collector safety, and place it in your green cart.



Tips and Reminders

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn; they decompose quickly and return nutrients to the soil.
- Fill the green cart first. Carts have a 60 kg (132 lb) weight limit. If you can roll the cart easily, it's okay for collection.
- **Place extra yard waste in paper yard-waste bags with the tops rolled closed, 0.5 m (2 ft) to the side of the cart.** Keep each bag under 20 kg (44 lb). If you can lift the bag with one hand it's okay.
- A reusable container with a lid can serve as a kitchen pail, or you can buy one from a retailer. The City does not provide replacement kitchen pails.



0.5 metres (2 feet) between bags and carts



Using the Right Bags

✗ NO. Do not use plastic bags.

Use certified compostable bags or paper bags.

Plastic and biodegradable bags do not break down properly and contaminate finished compost.

Visit calgary.ca/greencart for bag options and retailers.

LOOK FOR THESE LOGOS:



Paper bags



Certified compostable bags



Need more help?

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calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere





Some items can be reused, recycled or need to be handled safely—but not through curbside carts. Check the options below before placing anything in your carts.

City Eco Centres

City Eco Centres accept electronics, textiles, tires, appliances, yard waste, construction and demolition materials, oversized items such as mattresses and furniture, and other large household items. Some materials are accepted at no charge, while others require a fee. Find current hours, fees and locations at calgary.ca/ecocentre.



Batteries and Battery-Powered Devices

Drop off household batteries at designated locations including City Eco Centres, participating fire stations and retailers. Find a location at calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere.



One battery can start a fire. Batteries and battery-powered devices do not belong in any cart. When crushed or punctured, they can spark fires in homes, collection trucks, recycling facilities and landfills.



Electronics Recycling

Computers, televisions and other electronics can be recycled at City Eco Centres and other participating locations. Don't place electronics in any cart. Find City-approved drop-off locations at calgary.ca/electronics.

Small appliances



TVs and monitors



Computers and accessories



Audio and visual equipment



Mobile devices



Power and air tools



Games and toys





Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste does not belong in carts, down the drain or in the environment. Drop off accepted residential household hazardous waste for free at designated drop-off locations or City Eco Centres. Find locations and accepted items at calgary.ca/hhw.

Automotive products



Vapes or e-cigarettes



Chemicals in solid, spray and liquid form



If a product has any of these symbols, it's hazardous waste.

Household batteries



Gas cylinders and pressurized containers



(under 30 lbs only)

Paints and related products



Compact fluorescent light bulbs and tubes (4 feet or less)



Three easy steps to dispose of hazardous materials

- Check the accepted items list and drop-off location map at calgary.ca/hhw.
- Gather your materials and take them to a designated drop-off location.
- Follow on-site instructions when you arrive.

Transport safely

- Keep containers sealed and upright. Never mix chemicals.
- Use the original container so staff can safely handle the contents.
- If another container is needed, choose a sturdy, leak-proof container and label it accurately. Avoid thin plastic containers like pop bottles or milk jugs.



Community Cleanups

Each year, we partner with community associations to help residents get rid of unwanted household items and residential waste. For dates and locations, visit calgary.ca/cleanup.



Reuse or Donate

For household goods, clothing and shoes that are still usable, consider giving them to family or friends, donating them to a local charity, or listing them on a community buy-and-sell service. Find options at calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere.



Not sure where an unwanted item should go? Use **What Goes Where** — Calgary's free online tool — to find recycling, compost and safe disposal options for hundreds of items.

calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere





YES. Put these items in your garbage.

Many items can be recycled, composted, reused or dropped off. By using these options, households can reduce their garbage by more than half.

Cleaning and maintenance items



Diapers, personal hygiene and home health waste



Construction materials

Small amounts permitted.



Household goods



Cords, hoses and tangles





NO. Keep these out.

For everyone's safety, please don't place these items in your black cart. They can injure workers and damage collection trucks.

No household hazardous waste

If an item has a hazard symbol, take it to a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, even when empty. Find locations at calgary.ca/hhw.



No automobile waste

Including car parts, tires and batteries.



No oversized items



No unbagged items left outside of the cart

A garbage tag is required for extra bags.



No batteries or battery-powered devices



No items that can be donated, recycled or composted





How to Prepare Garbage

- Bag garbage to make it easier to handle.
- Put sharp objects in a puncture-resistant container, seal tightly and place inside the cart.
- Double-bag dusty materials, tie closed and place inside the cart.
- Close the cart lid completely and do not pack materials so tightly that they cannot fall out.
- Keep each cart under 60 kg (132 lb). If the cart rolls easily, it's okay for collection.

Tips and Reminders

- **Extra garbage requires a bag tag.** If you have more garbage than will fit in your black cart, buy a tag for each extra bag or save the extra garbage for your next collection day.
- **Place tagged bags at least 0.5 m (2 ft) to the side of the cart** and keep each bag under 20 kg (44 lb).
- Learn more about garbage tags at calgary.ca/garbagetag.



0.5 metres (2 feet) between bags and carts



Need more help?

Before choosing the blackcart, search calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere for recycling, compost, reuse and safe disposal options.



Calgary



Quick Reference Guide



Blue Cart
Recycling



Green Cart
Food and
yard waste



**Special
Drop-Offs**



Black Cart
Garbage



Plastic containers

Plastic bags and wrappers



Foam packaging



Food scraps



Food-dirty paper



**Household
hazardous waste**



**Batteries and
battery-containing devices**



**Cleaning and
maintenance items**



**Diapers, personal hygiene
and home health waste**



Paper and cardboard



Metal food containers



Food and body aerosols



Glass containers



Cooking oil, sauces and grease (Let cool and soak up with used napkins)



Yard waste



Pet waste

(Use a certified compostable bag)



Electronics and small appliances



Furniture and appliances



Clothing and textiles



Household goods



Cords, hoses and tanglers



Construction materials (small amounts)



Not sure where an unwanted item should go? Use What Goes Where—Calgary's free online tool—to find recycling, compost and safe disposal options for hundreds of items. calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere



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