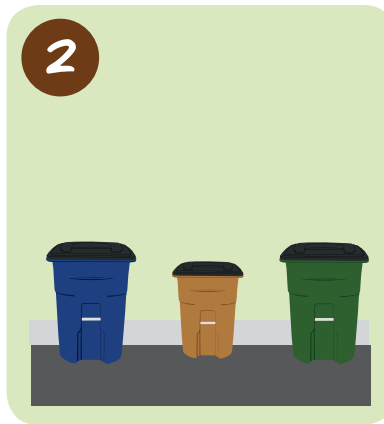




# How to Use Your Green Organics Cart



- 1** If it grows, it goes! Only put **organic materials** that will break down naturally in your cart. See Pages 5-6 for accepted materials.
- 2** Set out your cart **EVERY WEEK** by 6:30 a.m. on your trash collection day, even if it isn't full.
- 3** Make sure everything fits in the cart when the lid is closed, and keep the lid closed at all times. And remember, don't use plastic bags!

*Will this new cart affect the way my other carts and collections work?*



#### **RECYCLING:**

Nope, it's the same as before: place recyclables, like plastics, metals and office paper, in your blue recycling cart.



#### **TRASH:**

Instead of placing food scraps and food-soiled paper in your brown trash cart, place them in your green organics cart.



#### **YARD TRIMMINGS:**

Now it's easier than before: place yard trimmings directly in your green organics cart.



# How to Use Your Food Scrap Collector

Use the food scrap collector to help you take leftovers to your cart in one trip.



- 1** Keep your food scrap collector in a convenient location in your kitchen: on your countertop, under the sink, in your freezer
- 2** While cooking or cleaning up, place leftover food scraps in your food scrap collector
- 3** Empty the food scraps in your green cart before you set out your cart each week

## How to Keep Your Food Scrap Collector Clean

A clean collector makes for a clean cart. Before you put in your food:



Line your collector with a paper bag or homemade paper liner. Please, no plastic bags.



Wrap meat, poultry, and fish in a paper towel or old newspaper.



You may also freeze meat, poultry and fish in a reusable container until it's time to take scraps to your cart.



Don't forget you can always:

- Sprinkle baking soda in your collector to help control odors, if needed
- Wash your collector in the dishwasher or by hand with mild soap and water

The food scrap collector's replaceable carbon filter is designed to reduce odors in the collector. Please remove filter before washing.

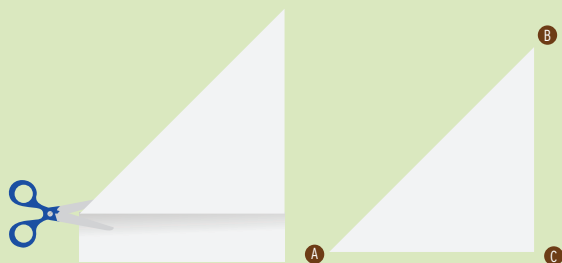
# How to Create a Liner for Your Food Scrap Collector

## Supplies needed:

- 3-4 sheets of newspaper
- A flat surface
- A pair of scissors (just in case)
- NO TAPE OR GLUE NEEDED**



**1** Make a perfect triangle by folding the top left corner of the newspaper to the bottom right corner. (If yours isn't a perfect triangle, just trim the excess off)



**2** Fold Point A (the left corner) across the middle of Point B and Point C and make a good crease.



**3** Flip the entire liner over and rotate so Point B is the bottom left corner.



**4** Once again, fold the bottom left corner (Point B) across the middle to Point D and make a good crease.



**5** Finally, fold the top flaps down on either side of the liner to create an opening.



**6** Place the liner in your food scrap collector, and throw in any leftover newspaper scraps!



To watch a video demonstration of this process, visit [austintexas.gov/austincomposts](http://austintexas.gov/austincomposts)

# If it Grows, it Goes!

## FOOD SCRAPS



### ACCEPTED ITEMS

Cooked or raw meat, poultry and seafood (including bones), cheese, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, grains, pasta, eggshells, bread, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, baked goods, nuts, jelly, tea leaves, candy, snack foods, leftovers, spoiled food

### HOW TO COLLECT

- Use the food scrap collector
- Wrap food scraps in newsprint, paper towels, or place in a paper bag
- Place in green cart

### WHAT TO AVOID

- Do not place food scraps in plastic bags, even if labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable"
- Do not include liquids, fats, oils, grease, plastic, glass, metals, Styrofoam

## YARD TRIMMINGS



### ACCEPTED ITEMS

Grass clippings, small branches, small tree limbs (no longer than 5 feet and no thicker than 3 inches in diameter), tree roots, flowers, leaves, plants, straw, soil

### HOW TO COLLECT

- Place yard trimmings directly in your cart
- If you are unable to fit all of your yard trimmings in your cart:
  - Bag extra yard trimmings in lawn-and-leaf paper bags and place at the curb
  - Tie small branches into manageable bundles with string or twine and place at the curb

### WHAT TO AVOID

- No rocks or tree stumps
- Ensure the lid closes

# FOOD-SOILED PAPER



## ACCEPTED ITEMS

Paper bags, napkins, towels, plates, cups, containers, take-out boxes, pizza boxes, coffee filters, microwavable popcorn bags, newspaper, milk cartons, tissues

## HOW TO COLLECT

Paper can be dry or wet  
Place directly in your green cart, or place in a paper bag

## WHAT TO AVOID

Do not include plastic, glossy paper, or window envelopes; recycle these items in your blue cart

# OTHER



## ACCEPTED ITEMS

Cotton balls, dryer lint, Popsicle sticks, sawdust (in paper bags), shredded paper (in paper bags), toothpicks, wooden chopsticks

## HOW TO COLLECT

Place directly in your green cart, or place in a paper bag

## WHAT TO AVOID

Prohibited items cannot break down into nutrient-rich compost or cause a safety hazard for collection crews

Check the list below to find out what to keep out of your green cart

# KEEP OUT!

Aluminum  
Animal carcasses  
Ceramics  
Cigarette butts and ashes  
Clothing

Fats, oils, grease  
Glass  
Glossy paper  
Hazardous waste  
Liquids

Medical waste  
Metal  
Pet waste  
Plastic bags  
Plastic containers

Plastic straws  
Rocks  
Styrofoam  
Trash

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *How were neighborhoods selected to participate in this pilot?*

Austin Resource Recovery selected 7,900 households in five different locations across the City of Austin to participate in the Curbside Organics Collection Pilot. Areas were selected to represent the City's demographics, and to include collection on each of our service days, Monday through Friday. To see a map of participating neighborhoods, visit [austintexas.gov/austincomposts](http://austintexas.gov/austincomposts).

## *What is the goal of this pilot?*

Over the course of this one-year pilot, we will gather and analyze data, evaluate the efficiency of our collection routes and refine our curbside organics collection services.

## *When does this pilot end?*

The pilot will officially end in December 2013. However, curbside organics collection will remain a permanent weekly collection service for all pilot households going forward. In January 2014, Austin Resource Recovery will expand the Curbside Organics Collection Program to include more households.

## *How much am I paying for this service?*

The fees on your utility bill will not change with this new service. Austin Resource Recovery provides bundled services to manage your trash, recycling and organics collection services. Costs are based on your trash cart size - the smaller the cart, the less it costs. Fees appear on your monthly utility bill. For trash cart size options and costs, visit [austinrecycles.com](http://austinrecycles.com). To change your trash cart size, call 512-494-9400.

## *What will happen to the organic materials in my cart after the materials are collected?*

After we collect your organic materials at the curb, they are transported to Organics "By Gosh", a local composting facility.

Organics "By Gosh" staff then mixes the organic materials with ground-up brush and applies water to the mixture. The compost then begins to slow-cook at about 131°F, allowing microbes and tiny living organisms to thrive and break down all the toxic and harmful substances in the mixture. After nine to 12 months, the mixture is transformed into nutrient-rich compost that is ready to fertilize lawns and gardens. To learn more about this process, visit [organicsbygosh.com](http://organicsbygosh.com).

## *What should I do if I can't fit all of my yard trimmings in my organics cart?*

If you are unable to fit all of your yard trimmings in your cart with the lid closed, please put the remaining yard trimmings in lawn-and-leaf paper bags or in reusable containers no larger than 34 gallons. You may also tie small branches into manageable bundles with string or twine and place them at the curb. They will be collected at no extra charge.

## *Learn More!*

For instructional videos, downloadable resources and tips for cleaning your cart and food scrap collector, visit [austintexas.gov/austincomposts](http://austintexas.gov/austincomposts) or call 512-974-1945.