What Goes IN the Bin

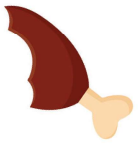
Kitchen waste, such as...

Fruit & Vegetables
Remove produce stickers, twist ties and rubber bands

Uneaten Cooked Food

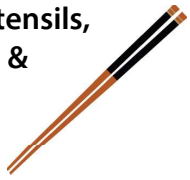
Fish & Shellfish

Meat & Bones
Raw or cooked;
Bones <2" diameter



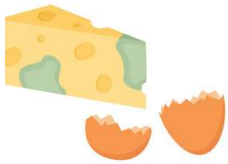
Pasta, Rice, Grains & Cereal

Wooden Utensils, Chopsticks & Toothpicks

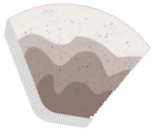


Bread & Baked Goods

Eggs & Dairy



Coffee Grounds, Filters & Tea Bags
Non-plastic



Cut Flowers

Tissue, Paper Napkins, Paper Towel
(Please contain in a paper bag)

Food-Soiled Paper & Cardboard
Pizza boxes, paper plates, take-out containers (Waxed or plastic coated NOT accepted)

Nuts, Seeds & Shells

What's OUT

These materials are NOT accepted in the green bin...

- Diapers, sanitary products
- Plastics bags or plastics of any kind, including those labelled compostable or biodegradable
- Pet waste (dog poo, kitty litter, cage shavings)
- Yard and garden waste
- Cigarette butts, wood and BBQ ashes
- Meat/fish tray absorbent pads
- Dryer lint, dryer sheets
- Vacuum bags and contents
- Twist ties, elastic bands, produce stickers
- Coffee/tea pods, K-cups and capsules
- Disposable coffee cups (recycle with Containers)
- Disposable/"flushable" wipes, Swiffer mop pads (place in the garbage - do not flush)
- Medications
- Hair, pet fur
- Wine corks
- Bones greater than 2" in diameter
- Rocks, soil
- Metal materials, including aluminum foil

Is Your Green Bin BEAR Proof?

Curbside Collection Starts October 2023

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

The standard 80 litre green bins distributed to residents free of charge by the RDKB are critter-resistant (raccoons, rodents, etc.) but not bear-resistant. With this in mind, it's important that you store and manage your bin properly so as not to attract bears.

How to Secure Your Green Bin from Bears

- Store your garbage and green bins in a closed, locked garage or shed, even if empty – bins will hold a residual smell.
- If a bin is stored outside, anchor it to a post using a cable so that it can't be dragged away.
- Place bins at the roadside only on the morning they are collected – never the night before.
- Take it out to the curb *every* week, even if you only have a small amount of organics in the bin.
- Put meat, bones, fish, dairy, oils, fat and fruit in your green bin – never in your backyard compost bin.
- Minimize odours by freezing meat and other smelly food scraps, and don't put them in the green bin until collection day.
- Keep bins clean... see our 'Tips to Reduce the "Yuck" Factor'.

Don't forget your blue box recyclables – they also smell delicious to bears! Rinse containers and store your blue box inside until collection day.

For more tips on how to make your home less attractive to bears, check out WildSafe BC at wildsafebc.com.

Tips to Reduce the "Yuck" Factor

- Many "yuck" problems are caused by moisture content in food. Drain your food scraps before placing in the bin.
- Keep the bottom of your bins dry by lining them with crumpled newspaper, boxboard or cardboard.
- Use a cellulose-lined paper bin liner such as the Bag to Earth brand bag or a paper yard waste bag. **DO NOT use plastic bags to line your bins, even if labelled compostable or biodegradable.**
- Wrap food waste in paper towel, newspaper or boxboard before placing it in your bins.
- Freeze smelly food scraps such as meat, fish and bones in newspaper or paper bags and place in your curbside bin on collection day.
- In the summer, reduce fruit flies by storing your kitchen bin in the freezer or fridge. If storing in the freezer, be sure to wrap your food waste or use a paper liner, so that it doesn't freeze to the bin.
- Alternate layers of kitchen scraps with layers of soiled paper products.
- Keep the lid tightly closed to keep out flies.
- Use vinegar, salt or garden lime to kill maggots.
- Clean your bins regularly with mild soap and water.
- Spray vinegar or sprinkle baking soda in the bin to reduce odours.
- Put your bin out for pick-up every week, even if it isn't full.

Many of these tips will also help if you are having trouble with food scraps freezing to your green bin. Keep it dry!

For more information, scan the QR code, visit rdkb.com/greenbin or call Environmental Services at 250.368.9148 Toll-Free 1.800.355.7352