



put it in the right bin



Organics

What are organics?

Organics are anything that was once growing. Organic materials will break down to become compost or mulch. They are usually collected in a green-lidded bin.



® Most councils provide options to recycle your organics. Some provide a green-lidded bin for garden materials and some provide a food basket or kitchen caddy to collect food scraps in the kitchen. Food scraps can be emptied straight into the organics bin, wrapped in newspaper or contained in a compostable bag.

TIP - Make sure you only use compostable bags supplied by your council OR if you buy them yourself look for the logo that shows they will compost. Degradable and bio-degradable bags are not the same as compostable bags. They will not break down in compost, and DO NOT belong in your organics bin.

What can I put in my organics bin?

STUFF that was once growing is put in your organics bin and includes:

- leaves and weeds
- branches or twigs
- lawn clippings
- flowers (fresh or dried).

Some councils ask that you put any cooked and uncooked food in your organics bin, such as:

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- egg shells
- meat or seafood scraps including bones and shells
- dairy and bread scraps.

Other things that once grew and can be placed in the organics bin include:

- paper towel and tissue
- hair
- pet waste.





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What happens to the **STUFF** from my organics bin after it is collected?

Organics are collected by a council truck and sent to a large composting facility. Here, the contents of the organics bins are checked and any non-organic materials are removed. You might be surprised at the contaminants people put in their organics bin! They include:

- plastic bags and packaging
- garden hose and tools
- rope
- clothing
- plastic and ceramic garden pots
- metal
- glass
- rocks and building materials

The simple rules are **'if it grows it goes'** and **'if it didn't grow it doesn't go'**!

The organic material is kept moist and full of oxygen so that it breaks down over several weeks to make rich nutritious compost, which can be used to help grow fruit, vegetables and other plants.



What if I do not have an organics bin?

Most councils supply an organics bin but some do not and not all councils can accept food scraps in this bin. If this is the case in your area, you can take your garden materials to a waste transfer station to be recycled into compost and mulch.

There are also lots of ways to recycle your food scraps at home, such as:

- setting up compost bins or bays
- starting a worm farm
- using Bokashi buckets, or
- providing food for chickens!

All of these will break down your food scraps so they can nourish your garden and not end up as waste in landfill.

