

# COMPOSTING 101



**1** Use a small organics bin to conveniently collect food scraps, yard waste, food soiled paper, tissue and compostable materials in your accommodations.

**2** Line your organics bin with newspaper, a paper bag or a ASTM D6400 certified compostable bag or go linerless. Avoid plastic and biodegradable bags.

**3** Empty the contents of your organics bin into your building's organics bin or into the compost bins at the Nesters or Function Junction waste depots.

**4** Keep your container naturally clean and odour free by washing it with vinegar and water. Sprinkling it with baking soda can help reduce odour.

## TOP TIPS

- Keep your organics indoors, out of reach from bears and wildlife.
- Minimize odour by freezing meat scraps, fish and anything smelly until you are ready to empty your organics bin.
- Don't forget to compost the plant waste from your garden.
- Keep our soil petroleum free by reading labels carefully and being aware of green washing. The following labels do NOT mean compostable: biodegradable, eco-friendly, made from plants, oxo-degradable, made with recycled content.

For more information on your building's participation in the food scraps and organics pilot project, please contact:

**AWARE via [info@awarewhistler.org](mailto:info@awarewhistler.org)**



Association of  
Whistler Area Residents  
for the Environment

FUNDED BY:



As part of its commitment to reducing solid waste, the Resort Municipality of Whistler is developing a bylaw to ensure properties provide collection of food scraps & organics and recycling, to minimize landfill garbage.

## FOOD SCRAPS & ORGANICS



**Food isn't garbage.**

*It belongs in the organics bin.*



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# WHY COLLECT FOOD SCRAPS?

## Recycling food scraps into compost:

- reduces garbage sent to landfills;
- lessens the creation of harmful greenhouse gases like methane; and
- turns food waste into nutrient rich soil.

*An audit of Whistler's commercial and strata garbage found that 54% of the garbage stream could have been diverted for composting, 13% could have been recycled and only 22% of the total waste was classified as garbage.*

## Where do our food scraps go?

Whistler's food scraps and organics are taken to the Sea-to-Sky Soils facility, North of Whistler, to be composted. The compost created is then added to soil to increase nutrient value, crop yields and plant health.

This local compost is used by farmers in Pemberton, Whistler's Community Gardens and Greenhouses, and by landscapers throughout the Sea-to-Sky.

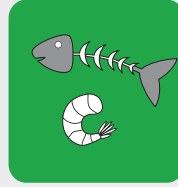
Close the loop.  
Contribute your food waste to fuel new growth and be a part of this story.



# FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING



Meat & Bones



Fish & Shellfish



Grains & Pasta



Dairy Products



Eggs & Shells



NO Diapers



Fruits & Veggies



Plate Scrapings



Coffee Filters, grounds & Tea Bags



Food-Soiled Paper



Yard Trimmings



NO Plastic

## COMMON QUESTIONS:

### What happens to food in the landfill?

In a composter food breaks down in the presence of oxygen, producing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). In landfills there is no aeration to provide oxygen so food breaks down to produce methane, a green house gas 72% more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Do we have the space?

Food scrap collection doesn't create more waste it just involves separating waste differently, opt for a smaller garbage bin as a space saver.

### Why can't plastic go in the compost bin?

Plastics and plastic-coated paper products (e.g. many coffee cups) produce fragments of plastic which contaminate compost. These plastic fragments are dispersed into the environment where it becomes nearly impossible to clean them up and where they remain indefinitely.

Items labelled biodegradable generally contain plastic. Check labels to ensure the product is certified compostable.

### Should I put food scraps in my garburator?

Garburators are not considered a sustainable way to manage organic waste because they:

- intensify the use of clean water and electricity;
- cause eutrophication as materials break down in water resulting absorbing oxygen normally needed to support aquatic life; and
- clog pipe systems with problem materials such as suspended solids, oil and grease.



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