

Yard-Free Composting

This factsheet covers information about curbside collection of organics in the Capital Regional District, centralized building collection of organics, indoor composting options like countertop electric composters and dehydrators, worm composting, bokashi composting, and tumbler composters.

Curbside Municipal Organics Collection

There are 13 municipalities and 3 electoral areas in the Capital Regional District (CRD). Some provide centralized curbside municipal organic waste collection along with curbside garbage collection. Many do not provide any pick up service. In this

Municipality	Curbside Kitchen Scrap Collection provided by government?
Central Saanich	No
Colwood	No
Esquimalt	Yes
Highlands	No
Langford	No
Metchosin	No
North Saanich	No
Oak Bay	Yes
Saanich	Yes
Sidney	Yes
Sooke	No
Victoria	Yes
View Royal	Yes
Electoral Areas	
Juan de Fuca	No
Southern Gulf Islands	No
Salt Spring Island	No



case, residents are responsible for hiring their own waste hauler to take away their waste materials, or they compost their organics at home themselves! The Compost Education Centre (CEC) can certainly help you get going with at home composting. The table in the left column lists each municipality and electoral area and whether or not they provide curbside collection.

Tips for Curbside Green Bin Care:

1. Store your green bin in a cool place, out of the sun.
2. **Skip compostable plastic bags** in your kitchen catcher and your green bin – most aren't compostable at the industrial composting facility our food scraps head to. Instead use newsprint or brown paper bags to soak up some of the liquid.

If your municipal government does not provide curbside pick up of **yard & garden material** or **kitchen scraps** it is your responsibility to compost these or hire a waste hauler or take these to a composting facility.

If you live in a multi-family dwelling, it is the responsibility of your property manager/landlord to provide you with this service.

There is a yard waste and food scrap ban at Hartland Landfill!



3. Freeze food scraps to avoid fruit flies in summer, then put your frozen food scraps in your green bin the day of collection.
4. Keep out the no-no's! That means no types of plastic, elastic bands, produce stickers, metals, glass, lint, coffee cups, diapers, pet waste, nor plastic lined paper bags are allowed!
5. All food scraps and soiled food paper is welcome in green bins, and some municipalities and private waste haulers also accept yard waste in the green bin.
6. Make sure you place your green bin to the curb on time for pick up, and with the lid closed. Leave the sidewalk free and clear for pedestrians, and mobility devices (see image below from City of Victoria)



Multi-family Dwelling Collection

Check out Compost Education Centre's (CEC's) *Factsheet #26: Multi-Family Dwelling Composting Options*. It's the responsibility of your landlord, property manager or strata to provide you with a green organics bin by hiring a private waste hauler. If they are not providing you with this service, remind them that there is a yard waste and food scrap ban at Hartland Landfill, and that the waste hauler could be fined for delivering garbage that contains food scraps to Hartland Landfill.

What Happens to my food scraps after they've been picked up curbside?

This varies depending on who is picking up your food scraps curbside. Most municipalities and private waste haulers in the CRD take their food scraps picked up curbside directly to the industrial composting facility, Fisher Road Recycling in Cobble Hill. Some municipalities stockpile materials in a big shipping container at Hartland landfill waiting until it is full before it is shipped to Cobble Hill.

What Happens at an Industrial Composting Facility?

Different industrial composting facilities use different technologies. The following is common at these facilities. Kitchen scraps and yard waste are collected, delivered and then put through a grinder. These materials are then placed in long windrows in static aerated piles—meaning that oxygen is blown up through the pile to maintain healthy decomposition and microbial activity. Piles experience temperatures exceeding 60°C via natural decomposition (i.e. chemical bonds breaking & microbial metabolic activity!) This ensures pathogens are killed and invasive species die. The temperature, moisture and oxygen levels are maintained through the entire process, then the material undergoes a Compost Maturity Test, this is to ensure the material is stable and ready for the market. Once it passes this test, it is moved through a 5/16" screen to remove any foreign objects (e.g. plastics) Those foreign objects are sent to the landfill.





and newspaper. They prefer to be the same temperature as us, so they are great indoor composting companions and they don't smell! For more information on worm composting, consult the CEC's *Factsheet #2 Vermicomposting*



Indoor Composting Options

If you don't have a yard, but want to make your own compost—rather than have a waste hauler pick your organics up—here are some ways to yard-free compost at home!

1. Countertop Electric Dehydrators & Composters

Countertop electric 'compost' machines grind and dehydrate organic matter to minimize the smell and volume of your food scraps. They use the same electricity as a computer being on for the same amount of time. The finished product smells sweet and is a nice texture, but needs to be composted in a regular compost bin before applying it to gardens or houseplants. These countertop machines are handy if you want to minimize yuck factor with food scraps or minimize the volume of food scraps you're creating.

2. Worm Composting

Red wiggler worms are great munchers—they love to eat food scraps and their 'bedding', leaves

3. Bokashi Composting

This is a process of fermenting all types of food scraps in a bucket—including meat, bones, dairy, and cooked foods. Fermented food scraps still need to be composted. Check out the CEC's *Factsheet #10 Bokashi Composting* for more info.

4. Tumbler Composting

Tumbler's are an off the ground passive composting system, and you can use them on pavement, balconies, or porches. Check out the CEC's *Factsheet #9 Tumbler Composter* for more info



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