

Organics Recycling Program

How to use your Kitchen Food Scrap Pail

1 Keep your kitchen food scrap pail in a convenient location in your kitchen. If you have the space, keep the pail on your counter-top as a visual reminder to recycle. It can be placed under the sink when space is tight.



2 The kitchen food scrap pail can be used as is or lined with newspaper, paper bags or a compostable bag. Look for the BPI logo or the term "compostable" on certified products at local retailers. Lining the pail can help make cleaning it easier. **Please note your pail is dishwasher safe.**

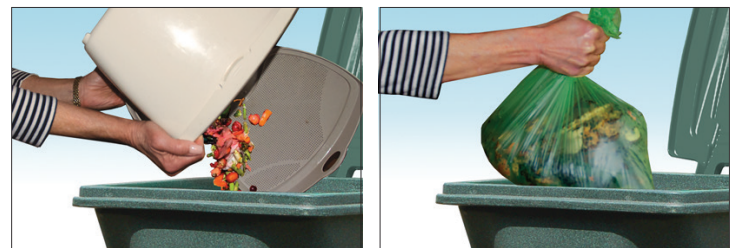


3 Collect food scraps in your kitchen food scrap pail. Scrape food prep scraps and leftovers from your plate or cutting board into your pail. Spoiled or stale food from your fridge and cupboards can also be placed in the pail.



Liquids can speed up the decomposition of food and weaken compostable bags. To avoid this, be sure to drain excess liquids before placing food scraps in your pail. Newspaper can be placed at the bottom of your pail to absorb liquids.

4 When the kitchen food scrap pail is full, empty your organics in your green lid organics cart. Your cart will be collected on a weekly basis on your normal collection day. **DO NOT place the kitchen food scrap pail outside for collection.**



Acceptable Items Include:



Fruits & Vegetables



Meat • Fish • Dairy



Breads & Grains



Fats, Oils, Grease and Food Soiled Paper



Plant Trimmings

Please do not put plastic, glass, metal, or polystyrene in your kitchen food scrap pail and green lid organics cart.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is organic waste and why is it important to recycle?

Organic waste is any material that is biodegradable and comes from either a plant or animal. Please note that pet waste is not biodegradable and should not be placed in the kitchen food scrap pail or green lid organics cart. Some examples of organic waste include yard trimmings (grass, leaves, flowers), food scraps (fruits, vegetables, meat, fish), and food-soiled paper (napkins and paper towels). When organic waste commingles with your trash and is sent to a landfill, it results in the production of methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas 25x more potent than carbon dioxide. Therefore, by separating organic waste, it can reduce the amount of methane emitted into the atmosphere.

How do you properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease?

Allow for your fats, oils, and grease to cool down and solidify. Once they are cooled, scrape the contents into a compostable bag, paper bag, or container to store in your freezer or fridge. If using a compostable bag or paper bag, you may dispose of both bags with its contents into your green lid organics cart. If you are using a recyclable container, dispose of the fats, oils, and grease into your green lid organics cart and either reuse the container or thoroughly clean the container before disposing of it in your blue lid recycle cart.

What is food-soiled paper?

Food soiled paper are paper products that have been in contact with liquid or solid food waste and cannot be recycled into other paper products. Examples of food-soiled paper includes napkins, paper plates and cups, stained pizza boxes, and used coffee filters.

What happens to your organic waste once it leaves your home?

Organic waste is sent to one of CR&R's composting facilities or an Anaerobic Digestion facility where the organic waste is converted into high quality fertilizer or renewable natural gas to fuel our collection fleet.

Tips for using your Kitchen Food Scrap Pail

- During the warm summer months keep your pail inside the fridge or freezer. Once it's collection day, empty your pail into your green lid organics cart.
- Keep your pail out of direct sunlight.
- To absorb moisture, line the bottom of your kitchen food scrap pail and green lid organics cart with a layer of newspaper, yard trimmings, or baking soda.

Reminders for La Habra Residents

- In general, try to reduce food waste by only buying what you need, creating new meals from leftovers, and storing your food correctly.
- If you have excess shelf-stable non-perishable food, please consider donating to a local food pantry.
- To find a food pantry near you, please visit the City website or go to www.foodpantries.org.



Scan the QR code to visit irecyclesmart.com to view videos and information on proper organics recycling and use of the kitchen pail.

For general information visit www.lahabra.gov/488/Recycling-Waste

For more information about organics recycling or to speak with a Sustainability Specialist, please email

LaHabra-Recycles@crrmail.com