



# FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING & RECYCLING

Have you ever stopped to think about how much food waste goes into your garbage can on a weekly basis? *A lot!*

In fact, **food scraps and food-soiled paper make up about 23% of Marin's residential waste stream.** But there is an alternative: food scrap composting, and Mill Valley Refuse Service makes it easy for you to participate.

Simply collect your food scraps and food-soiled paper (many people use a spare bowl or small compost buckets in their kitchens to conveniently collect food scraps), and then place them in your green can along with your yard waste. **We pick up the organic waste from your green can weekly on your regular pickup day.**

When you compost in your green can, your organic waste will be diverted from the landfill to create a rich and nutritious soil amendment that can be put back in the earth, closing the "recycling loop." You'll also help Marin County achieve its 2025 Zero Waste goals. You can learn more about these goals by visiting [zerowastmarin.org](http://zerowastmarin.org).

If you're worried about food scraps making your green can messy, you can place sheets of newspaper at the bottom of the can or wrap the scraps in paper. **NO PLASTIC BAGS** (not even so-called bio-degradable ones) are permitted. You can even place a small compost bucket into your green can at the curb. Our drivers will lift the bucket out and dump it.

The green can is taller and more stable than common garbage cans, so raccoons and other pests may find them difficult to tip over or get into. However, if pests become a problem, you can

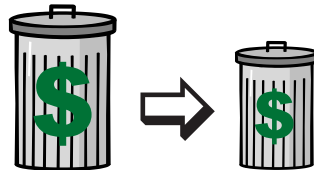
use a bungee cord to hold the can's lid down just as many people do now with their garbage cans.

**Your participation and cooperation is critical in making food waste composting a success.** Please review the list on this page for what can and cannot go in the green can or use the handy Food Scrap Recycling flier on page 2 of this pdf. You can also print the flier on our website at [www.millvalleyrefuse.com](http://www.millvalleyrefuse.com).

## PARTICIPATE, REUSE AND SAVE MONEY

Did you know you could switch to a cheaper, 20-gallon garbage can if you recycle and compost so much that you do not fill larger-size cans with trash? That's your incentive to participate fully in the services that help you divert waste away from the landfill.

Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as much as possible to see if you're able to drop a can size and save money.



## THANK YOU FOR BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS AND KEEPING YOUR STREETS NEAT!

Everyone loves using their recycling and green compost cans, but nobody likes how ugly they look when left out in the street too long. Please, do your part to keep your neighborhood looking great. Only bring your cans out on the night before your pickup day, and roll them out of sight the same day they get emptied.

## THESE ITEMS CAN GO IN YOUR GREEN COMPOST CAN

### FOOD SCRAPS

- Fruits & Vegetables
- Meat & Poultry
- Breads & Grains
- Seafood & Shellfish
- Coffee grounds
- Plate Scrapings & Leftovers
- Bones, Rice, Beans, Pasta
- Cheese & Eggshells

### FOOD-SOILED PAPER

- Paper napkins/towels/plates/cups
- Coffee filters & tea bags
- Paper take-out boxes
- Pizza boxes (if too soiled to simply recycle)

### YARD & GARDEN WASTE

- Leaves, Flowers, Grass, Weeds
- Bush and Tree trimmings
- Houseplants

## DO NOT PUT THESE ITEMS IN YOUR GREEN CAN

- Plastic of any kind (even so-called bio-degradable plastic)
- Liquids, Glass, Metal
- Foam containers
- Paper ice cream cartons
- Milk cartons
- Waxed cardboard
- Pet Waste or Diapers
- Rocks or Dirt





# MIXED RECYCLING GUIDE

Place your mixed recycling into your brown cart and roll it out to the street by 6:00 a.m. on your regular recycling day.

## DON'T LET CONTAMINATION RUIN RECYCLING

Contamination is the term used to describe anything that renders your recycling non-recyclable during processing. Contaminated material will likely end up in landfill.

Contamination occurs when:

- Non-recyclable items are put in collection carts
- Food waste (solid or liquid) in recyclable containers has not been thoroughly cleaned or rinsed, soiling paper products into which it comes in contact.
- Bags of recyclables are dropped into carts rather than dumping the recyclables in loose. Bags are NOT torn open at the processing plants so the bag and all its contents end up in the trash.

## RECYCLING CHECKLIST

- All food waste must be wiped clean or rinsed from containers. All liquids must be poured out.
- Do not bag recyclables, they should be put loose into the cart
- Do not put any garbage, yard waste or hazardous wastes in your brown recycling cart.

## ✓ ACCEPTED MATERIAL

### MIXED PAPER AND CARDBOARD

- Mixed paper: such as newspaper, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, paperback books, phone books
- Office paper: any color, envelopes (envelopes with windows okay)
- Paperboard: such as cereal boxes (liners removed), shoe boxes
- Corrugated cardboard (please flatten into 4' x 4' bundles)
- *Do not include: soiled paper, wax or plastic-coated paper, tissues, paper towels, photographs or hardcover books*

### GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

- Food and beverage bottles and jars in any color.
- Empty and rinse. No need to remove labels. No corks, lids or caps.
- *Do not include: ceramics, Pyrex, stemware, light bulbs, window glass, or mirrors*

### PLASTIC CONTAINERS

- Hard plastic containers with the plastic recycling symbol numbers 1 to 5: such as plastic milk containers, soda, water, shampoo bottles
- Okay to leave labels and caps on.
- Empty and rinse.
- *Do not include: Styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic film, PVC pipe*

### METAL CANS

- Aluminum Cans
- Steel Cans
- Tin and bi-metal cans: aerosol & metal paint cans are accepted if completely empty and dry.
- Empty and rinse before recycling. No need to remove labels.
- *Do not include: scrap metal, propane tanks, hangers or containers with liquid*

**Please note:** We are no longer able to accept milk cartons or aseptic packaging such as the boxed soy milk, wine, soup or juice containers for recycling. These items should be put into the trash.

Mill Valley Refuse Service  
415.457.9760  
[millvalleyrefuse.com](http://millvalleyrefuse.com)