



# BAG USE GUIDELINES FOR COMPOSTING

**Note:** All bagged materials containing food waste must be placed in the PGC Composts Cart for collection.

While the most sustainable choice is to go bag-free, you may use a certified compostable bag in your kitchen pail or wheeled green cart.

Traditional plastic bags and biodegradable bags are not compostable, are considered contaminants, and are not accepted at the compost facility. Instead, choose bags labeled "home compostable" or "commercially/ industrially compostable." You may also use paper yard trim bags or brown paper bags.



To keep your wheeled green cart clean and dry without using a bag, line the bottom with yard trim or uncoated paper products instead.

## BAG SIZE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Kitchen pail:** Use a minimum 3-gallon compostable bag to allow for proper folding slack.

**Wheeled green cart:** Use a paper or certified compostable bag that's at least 33 gallons in size.

### LOOK FOR BAGS WITH THESE LABELS IN YOUR LOCAL SUPERMARKET



## SOURCE REDUCTION TIP

Plan your meals and shop with purpose to minimize food waste! Buy only what you know you'll use. Composting your food scraps and yard trim is an easy and effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cut down on landfill waste, and improve soil health in our community.



## CONTACT US

**Prince George's County  
Department of the Environment (DoE)**  
1801 McCormick Drive  
Largo, Maryland 20774  
(301)883-5810

**Sustainable Waste Management Division  
Recycling Section**  
9200 Basil Court, Suite 300  
Largo, Maryland 20774  
(301)883-3635



For more information, visit [mypgc.us/compost](http://mypgc.us/compost)



Escanee aquí para ver versión en Español



## GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR GREEN CART:

### Compost at Your Comfort Level

Prince George's County makes it easy to take part in composting and help reduce methane gas emissions – a major contributor to climate change. Participate at your own pace and make a positive impact from home.

# COMPOSTING AT YOUR LEVEL OF COMFORT:

## What can I place in my PGC Compost cart?

- Fruits & Vegetables
- Dairy Products
- Seafood & Shellfish
- Meat & Bones
- Tea Bags & Loose Tea
- Leftovers
- Paper Ice Cream Container (uncoated)
- Bread, Pasta and Grains
- Paper Towels and Napkins
- Food Soiled Paper
- Coffee Grounds, Filters & Pods (paper based only)
- Yard Trim (leaves, limbs & grass)
- Eggshells
- Uncoated Paper Bags
- Nuts & Shells (i.e., pistachios, peanuts)
- Uncoated Paper Plates
- Uncoated Pizza Boxes



## What items are NOT accepted for collection?

- Plastic Bags, Wrappers or Film
- Facial or Toilet Tissues (Bio-waste)
- Styrofoam® Containers
- Diapers
- Plastic Jugs & Bottles
- Pet Waste, Cat Litter
- Aluminum or Steel Cans, Utensils, Pans
- Household Trash/Litter
- Aluminum Foil
- Kitchen Pots or Pans
- Plastic Utensils, Cups, Plates & Food Containers
- Foil Backed or Plastic Backed Paper
- Grease or Fats
- Ceramic or Plastic Dishes
- Liquids
- Glass or Copper-based items of any kind

### Note:

Prince George's County does not accept plastic bags. Contaminated bags or compost will not be collected. A sticker will be placed on the cart or bag, and the cart will be left at the curb.

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RESIDENTIAL COMPOST & YARD TRIM COLLECTION SERVICE

Prince George's County offers residents an easy and environmentally friendly way to compost food scraps and yard trim.



## ELIGIBILITY

This service is available to:

Households that **receive County-administered trash collection services**

## COLLECTION SCHEDULE

- **Service Day:** Every Monday (except on County-observed holidays. Refer to the DoE's website for holiday schedule information).
- **Set-Out Time:** Place your PGC Composts Cart curbside by 6 a.m. on collection day

## WHAT HAPPENS TO COLLECTED MATERIALS?

All compostable materials – including food scraps and yard trim – are transported to the **Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility**. At the facility, materials are placed into a **bunker composting system**, where they decompose under controlled, oxygen-rich conditions.

The result is **Leafgro GOLD®**, a nutrient-rich, all-natural soil amendment product produced in Prince George's County and sold in bulk to retailers to promote healthy soil and plant growth. Revenue from the sales offsets the cost of the compost operations.

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

**Food Scraps Composting** is an essential part of Prince George's County's waste management strategy to protect and preserve our environment.

## BENEFITS OF DIVERTING FOOD SCRAPS FROM LANDFILLS:

- **Reduces** methane and other greenhouse gas emissions, lowering the County's overall carbon footprint.
- **Conserves** valuable landfill airspace for items that cannot be composted or recycled.
- **Supports** the production of **Leafgro GOLD®** – an all-natural soil amendment made right here in Prince George's County – used to remediate soil erosion and promote healthier plant growth.
- **Helps** Prince George's County move closer to achieving its **Zero Waste** goal.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Missed Collection?

Residents can report same-day missed food scrap collection after 12 p.m. on Mondays and before Tuesday at 6 p.m., the following day by contacting:

- **PGC311 Call Center**

In-County: **3-1-1**

Out-of-County: **301-883-4748**

Hours: **7 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

- **Online:** Submit a service request anytime at [ocr.mypgc.us/pgc311](https://ocr.mypgc.us/pgc311)

### Program Questions:

Email [pgccomposts@co.pg.md.us](mailto:pgccomposts@co.pg.md.us) for general inquiries or assistance.