Lining your organics containers

Lining your green bin protects collection staff, helps the material empty out on collection day and keeps your bin cleaner.

You have many lining options, from do-it-yourself solutions using paper you may have around your home, to buying acceptable types of liner bags from local grocery and hardware stores. The choice is yours!

OPTION 1: DIY do-it-yourself

- Make your own kitchen container liner from old newspaper. Instructions are available on our website, or call us and we will send you a copy.
- When you prepare food, place a couple of sheets of newsprint on the counter. Put in food scraps, roll up, and toss in your green bin.
- Use other paper bags, such as from take-out foods. Ask for paper bags when shopping.

OPTION 2: Buy liner bags

1. Decide which container you are going to line: your kitchen container or green bin.
2. Decide on the type of liner bags:
3. (a) Paper. All paper liner bags are acceptable and do not require any special certification or logo.
4. (b) Certified compostable liner bags. Only buy packages that have these COMPOSTABLE logos:

Buyers of certified compostable bags beware! If the package does not have a Canadian or US compostable logo, they are not acceptable. Generally, if the packaging refers to degradable or oxo-degradable, don’t buy them. These types of bags do not meet composting standards.

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If you choose to use certified compostable liner bags, here’s what you need to know. Packages of certified compostable liner bags have one of these logos:

How to use certified compostable liner bags

1. Use one bag at a time. Do not place one bag inside another bag.
2. Close all liner bags to protect collection crews.
3. Do not carry the full bag of organics to your green bin, it could rip.
4. Place bags in the green bin with the logo facing up.
5. Do not just set out the bag, keep it in the green bin.

Unacceptable liner bags

Green bins containing unacceptable plastic will not be collected. Unacceptable plastic includes: plastic shopping bags, garbage bags, oxo-degradable or degradable bags, and plastic green or blue recycling bags.

Another way to handle pet waste

Now pet owners can use certified compostable pet waste bags. Look for the logos when buying the bags and please follow the five steps above.

Do not use certified compostable bags for yard waste

Please continue to use only paper yard waste bags, or a garbage can with either a yellow Region of Waterloo yard waste sticker on it or a brightly coloured ribbon tied to the handle.

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