



MAINTAINING YOUR ORGANICS CONTAINERS

KEEPING YOUR GREEN CART CLEAN

Maggots are fly larvae and occur when flies lay eggs on organic materials. This can occur in any cart where organic materials are placed (garbage or organics cart).

Maggots typically have a seven-day life cycle with fluctuations depending on temperatures and other conditions such as moisture.

To prevent maggots from occurring, eliminate odors, and reduce their access to the cart follow these tips:

- Wrap your meat food scraps and bones in a sheet of newspaper before placing them in your green organics cart.
- Freeze your seafood or meat scraps until the day prior to your collection day.
- Put a layer of yard trimmings, food-soiled paper (napkins or paper towels), or baking soda on top of your food scraps.
- Rinse your organics cart with a mild detergent and water.
- Keep the cart lid closed.
- Spray the rim of the cart with bleach, ammonia, or bug spray weekly.

HOW TO MINIMIZE ODORS

If you would like to minimize odors from your green cart, the following can help:

- Mix food scraps with materials that are dry and absorbent (and also organic) such as plant debris, shredded bills and sensitive documents, and paper napkins or towels. Sprinkling baking soda in the cart can help for smaller amounts of food scraps too.
- Store your cart in a cooler, shady area so the heat doesn't increase the decomposition (and smell) of the contents of the cart.



MAGGOTS IN YOUR GREEN ORGANICS CART?

If you end up with maggots in your green organics cart, the following can help:

- Spray the top and inside of the cart with vinegar.
- Cover the maggots with lime, salt, or vinegar.



HOW TO CLEAN YOUR GREEN ORGANICS CART

If you need to clean your green organics cart, do not use soap and other "cleaners" that could damage local ecosystems. Instead use natural methods and ingredients such as:

- Leave the cart lid open on a rainy day or rinse out the cart with a hose. Make sure to dump the used water and organics debris in landscaping (not into the storm drain).
- Try lime or lemon, baking soda, and vinegar inside the cart to clean and scrub away odors.

FREE LOCAL RESOURCES TO ASSURE SB 1383 COMPLIANCE

The City of Oroville offers the following assistance and resources to help you set up and maintain your recycling and food/green waste program.

- Free waste assessment to determine your trash, recycling, & food/green waste needs.
- Free set-up & ongoing support to help you maintain your program.
- Free instructional materials (how-to-guides, posters, decals, etc.).
- Indoor Recycling and food/green waste carts are available.

To set up an appointment and/or request equipment please email recycle@cityoforoville.com.



BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING

Composting is nature's way of recycling and is one of the most powerful actions we can take to reduce landfill waste, combat climate change, and build healthy soil. It supports the environment by:

- **Reducing methane emissions:** Composting organics waste lowers methane output from landfills.
- **Decreasing waste:** Diverts organic material from landfills.
- **Recycling nutrients:** Compost transforms organic waste into nutrient-rich soil.



Using compost in your backyard, local farms, schools, parks, and other green spaces replenishes the soil with essential organic matter. The benefits include:

- **Improved water retention:** Compost helps soil hold water more efficiently, reducing the amount of water needed for irrigation.
- **Enhanced plant growth:** It boosts plant growth, leading to higher crop yields.
- **Reduced chemical use:** Decreases the reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Better water quality:** Filters stormwater, improving water quality.

Scan this QR code to watch our 3-minute video "Back to the Core: A Compost Story".



Scan to watch:
"Back to the Core: A
Compost Story"

HOW TO PREPARE FOOD SCRAPS FOR COLLECTION

1. Collect food scraps while preparing meals, scraping plates, and/or cleaning out the refrigerator of spoiled food. Include paper towels, napkins, paper plates, and pizza boxes (make sure to dispose of any plastic in the garbage).



2. Empty your kitchen compost pail, including soiled paper, and any vegetative waste into your green compost cart. No plastic bags are allowed in the green compost cart.



3. We'll take it from here! We haul your compost to a local facility and within 60 days, it is made into rich compost that is used throughout the community and beyond to help regenerate the soil.



FREE INDOOR FOOD SCRAP PAIL

Free indoor compost pails are available to multi-family residents for the collection of food scraps in your kitchen.

Please contact City of Oroville at recycle@cityoforoville.org to request a pail.

