



Why compost?

- Collectively reduce the amount of garbage that we produce;
- Aim for better territorial performance in the management of our waste material;
- Reduce landfill costs for residual materials
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reduce our ecological footprint;
- View our residues as recyclable resources;
- Make use of compost, a natural fertilizer derived from residues collected by your municipality.

All of the above are good reasons to value food residues. In fact, more than 300 municipalities in Quebec have already implemented their collection, and apart from some resistance to change, 72% of citizens today consider that the benefits of composting are worth the effort and time required (*Source : Recyc-Québec, Annual report 2014-2015*).

We have developed a kit with a lot of useful information to make it easier for you to get into the habit.

Environmental stakes

[Do you know that 57% of domestic residue dumped in the gutter is recoverable organic material?](#)

This represents 162 kg per person per year of food residue, garden waste, grass and fall leaves (*Source: Characterization of waste matter from residential sources 2012-2013 of RECYC-QUÉBEC*)

This organic material is not garbage, although it is currently often so regarded and we pay to dispose of it.



It constitutes an invaluable source of compost for enrichment of our soil. Not to mention that when organic matter is simply buried, it can be the cause of particularly serious problems in landfills. When the decomposition process takes place in the absence of oxygen, it results in significant emissions of greenhouse gases and other compounds harmful to the environment and health.

Significant statistics

According to Recyc-Québec, the collection and transportation activities generate a minimal amount of greenhouse gases if we compare them to the gain obtained by diverting 60% of a municipality's organic matter from landfill to composting.

According to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change (MDDELCC), the contribution of waste to the Québec greenhouse gas emissions balance sheet is mainly caused by buried organic matter.

Government policies and fines

According to the objectives set by *Quebec Policy of Residual Waste Management*, it will be forbidden to discard organic material by 2020. The objective is to recover 60% of organic matter generated in all sectors (residential and industrial sectors, businesses and institutions). That's why your collaboration in this collective project is essential for our region!

The new normative framework established in 2016 by the MDDELCC mandates financial penalties for municipalities that do not respect the objective set by the new policy. The two residual materials management plans (PGMR and PMGMR) in effect in the territory of the Regional Municipalities of Vaudreuil-Soulanges meet the requirements of this policy and include several measures that will have to be implemented with regard to organic materials, among others: to implement a collection of food waste as of 2018.

You can follow the progress of the measures provided for in your municipality's plans on the MRC website at www.mrcvs.ca.

Organic residue, a gardener's brown gold!

Our food residues and garden waste, just like our dead leaves, branches and cut grass, are all too often seen as garbage for the landfill dump. However, in addition to causing serious environmental problems in landfills, these "wastes" are actually resources.

The gardener's "brown gold", compost resulting from the decomposition of organic matter, is a source of natural fertilizer for crops, flowerbeds and vegetable gardens, in addition to contributing to water retention, improving soil structure and decreasing erosion. Given current environmental problems and the constant



degradation and loss of arable land, the real question is: why are we still wasting this resource?

The collection of food residues allows the recycling of table scraps.

For **grass clippings**, just leave them on the ground and practice grasscycling!

For **autumn leaves**, shred them on the spot and practice leafcycling!

For **green waste**, collect and recycle it in a domestic composter.

These practices are strongly encouraged and have many benefits:

- Equivalent to 25% of the annual fertilizer recommended for your lawn;
- Raises the level of organic matter in your soil.

Your soil will retain more moisture and your lawn will be more resistant during heat waves and watering bans!

Note: grass clippings, fall leaves and green residues are not accepted in food waste collection.

[Contact your municipality to find out about the various services offered and the collection schedule for green residues, branches, autumn leaves or local recycling for farmers.](#)

Why brown bins if you already practice domestic composting?

The brown bin is the perfect complement to your domestic composter

Do you already practice composting at home and recycle your fruit and vegetable peelings, bread, coffee grounds and green residues in your garden and fall leaves? Your compost is brown gold, a natural fertilizer; do not change your habits!

The collection of food waste is an opportunity for you to optimize the recovery of other materials such as table residues, which do not go into your home composter, i.e. meat, fish, leftovers, pasta and salads containing sauce and /or vinaigrette.

For a household performing domestic composting, practice shows that 1.5 to 2.5 kg of material will still go every week into the brown bin ... 100 kg per year! For only a dozen residences, a ton of material is diverted from the landfill and recovered per year! Not to mention that in winter, the brown bin will be more easily accessible than the composter at the other end of the property.



The time has come to complement the ever-relevant use of the domestic composter. Door-to-door collection via the brown bin will promote the recovery of all food residues.

LIST OF MATERIAL ACCEPTED and REJECTED BROWN BIN vs. DOMESTIC COMPOSITER

*You have a domestic composter?
Don't change your practices; the brown bin is an excellent complement for you!*

 <p>Material accepted in the domestic composter but rejected in the 45 litre brown bin</p> <p>Green residues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wood chips ✓ Straw and hay ✓ Twigs ✓ Autumn leaves ✓ Lawn mowings (when grasscycling isn't possible) ✓ Garden residues (hedge trimmings, unedged weeds, etc.) ✓ Dead plants, dried flowers and potting remains including sand and earth 	 <p>Material accepted in the brown bin but rejected in the domestic composter</p> <p>Food residues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Animal residues (milk products, meat) ✓ Fish, seafood, shells and bones ✓ Fats (vegetable oils, mayonnaise, salad dressings) ✓ Cakes, sweets ✓ Pet food (eg croquettes) 	<p>Warning! Some materials are incompatible with both the domestic composter and the brown bin***</p> <p>Material rejected for the brown bin and the domestic composter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Sick plants or foliage ✗ Robust weeds ✗ Tree branches ✗ Stumps and tree roots ✗ Vacuum cleaner bags and contents ✗ Lint and dryer sheets ✗ BBQ briquettes ✗ Wax and chewing gum ✗ Butts and cigarette ashes ✗ Animal faeces and litter (because they may contain pathogens) ✗ Dead animals and animal limbs ✗ Material contaminated with pesticides or dangerous products (e.g. treated wood)
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*** All dangerous or contaminated products should be deposited at the Réseau des écocentres de la MRC.

Put out other refuse material curbside in anticipation of the collection of household garbage, collection of branches, fall leaves or green waste from your municipality. For information about collections, contact your municipality.



What happens to the collected material?

The collected material is transported to the GSI Englobe treatment site located in Lachute, which earned the tender of the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges. The material from the brown bin is mixed with other elements such as wood chips and then piled outside, in windrows. These windrows are turned to speed up the decomposition process. The mature compost is then sieved and sold to businesses and farmers or redistributed to municipalities that take advantage of this option provided for in the contract.

Note: green residues and leaves are not accepted in the food waste collection.



Contact your municipality to find out about the various services offered and the schedule for collecting green residues, branches, autumn leaves or local recycling for farmers.

The treatment product becomes compost (topsoil)



Will some of the compost be redistributed to residents?

The collected material is transported, sorted and recycled on a composting platform. Mature compost is sifted and redistributed to municipalities using this option under the MRC contract.

Contact your municipality for more information.

Who is in charge of food waste collection?

Each municipality of the MRC is responsible for the collection and transport of food waste on its territory, as well as the distribution and management of brown bins. The Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC is responsible for the treatment of the food waste collected and the quality of the compost produced by the service provider.



Why a bin of 45 litres?

The experience of over 300 municipalities in Quebec that have practiced collection has helped identify what works and has provided documented recommendations. There is evidence that a smaller bin has a lower contamination rate. Considering that the amount of table residue generated per household is about 2 kg per week, its capacity is therefore largely sufficient.

As well, the collection of food residues in the territory of the MRC excludes green residues and fall leaves, which are larger in volume.

[Contact your municipality to find out about the various services offered and the collection schedule for green residues, branches, autumn leaves or local recovery for farmers.](#)

BAG MANAGEMENT

Why reject plastic bags?

Whether 100% compostable, oxo-biodegradable or biodegradable, plastic bags are not accepted in food waste collection. Which material in your brown bin is accepted or rejected depends on the site and the processing technology used.

Given the variety and complexity of bags available on the market, the risk of contamination and rejection during the treatment of organic materials is too high. Moreover, these bags cause an increase in operating costs.

We urge you to use paper bags, cardboard or newspaper.

Where to get paper bags?

In any grocery or hardware store. Bags with or without cellulose film can be used.

Alternatives to paper bags

Old newspapers, flyers, paper grocery bags or cardboard wrapping material may be used.



BIN MANAGEMENT

How to prevent noxious things (stenches, flies, maggots) from colonizing my bins?

- Use a corner of your freezer to store animal or malodorous residue until collection day;
- Clean your bin with water and a disinfectant like vinegar or biodegradable soap. Avoid using bleach because it gets dumped into streams and is highly toxic to aquatic fauna;
- Sprinkle the material with a deodorant product such as baking soda;
- Store your bin in the shade.

Who owns the bin?

The bin is municipal property.

What to do with the bin when moving?

As with the recycling bin, the brown bin is linked to a specific address and should remain for use by the next resident.

What to do if the brown bin breaks, is lost or stolen?

Contact the municipality.

Can I have a second bin?

No. A single 45 litre bin is provided per household. The municipality's food waste collection excludes green residues and fall leaves, which could be very big in volume. In addition, the largest generators of food waste, such as the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sectors, are not included in the first phase of this implementation of food waste collection.

What to do when going on vacation?

Just put out your brown bin the week before you leave, then clean it and leave it empty until you get back (you can accumulate your material in the freezer or refrigerator between collection and the date of your departure, if necessary). In the summer, "unwelcome visitors" may adopt your bin if it contains food residues and is left out in the heat too long.

Happy holidays!



Can I put compostable dishes in the bin?

No. Put your compostable dishes in the garbage bin; they will decompose naturally. The materials in your bin that are accepted or rejected depend on the site and the processing technology.

Given the diversified supply and complexity of the different types of compostable crockery on the market, the risk of contamination and rejection when treating organic materials is considerably high.

Can I put grass, fall leaves, weeds and other yard waste in my brown bin?

No. Green residues, garden residues and autumn leaves are not accepted in the food waste collection.

For your **grass clippings**, leave them on the ground and practice grasscycling!

For your **autumn leaves**, shred them on the spot and practice leafcycling!

For **green waste**, recycle them in a domestic composter and collect the compost from your garden residue.

These practices are strongly encouraged and entail many benefits:

- Equivalent to 25% of the annual fertilizer recommended for your lawn.
- Increases the level of organic matter in your soil.

Your soil will retain more moisture and your lawn will be more resistant during heat waves and watering bans!

[Contact your municipality to learn about the different services offered and the collection schedules for green residues, branches, autumn leaves or local recycling at farms.](#)

Can industry, businesses and institutions participate in the collection of food residue?

The first phase, planned for 2018, is for the residential sector and targets family units and multiple residences of 5 units or less. In 2019, residences of more than 5 units will be served and in 2020, industries, businesses and institutions similar to the residential sector will be served by a municipal collection service.



Are leaf collections and green waste collections maintained?

We encourage you to practice grasscycling and the shredding of dead leaves. Nature has already developed a high performance recovery system for these materials; let's leave them there instead of breaking our backs to gather them up and then pay for their transportation and treatment! Your lawns and flowerbeds will thank you for this contribution of fertilizer and organic matter. On the aesthetic side, the residues are not visible if the mowing is done regularly and it all disappears completely in less than 48 hours!

[Contact your municipal office to learn about the various services offered and the collection schedule for green residues, branches, autumn leaves and recycling by local farmers.](#)

