



Why compost?

- Collectively reduce the amount of waste we produce
- Reduce landfill costs for household waste
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Reduce our ecological footprint

Over 300 municipalities in Quebec are already providing this type of collection, and apart from some resistance to change, 72% of citizens today consider that the benefits of composting are worth the time and effort required (*Source: Recyc-Québec, Annual Report 2014-2015*).

Environmental issues

[Did you know that 57% of household curb-side waste consists of recoverable organic materials?](#)

This represents 162 kg per person per year of food waste, garden waste, grass clippings and fall leaves (*Sourc : RECYC-QUÉBEC – Types of waste materials in the residential sector 2012-2013*).

These organic materials aren't "just waste", although they're still viewed as such and we actually pay to dispose of them. They represent an invaluable resource for producing compost and enriching the soil. In addition, when organic materials are buried in landfill, they cause serious problems. When the decomposition process occurs in the absence of oxygen, it results in significant emissions of greenhouse gases and other compounds that are harmful for health and the environment.

Government policies and financial penalties from the MDDELCC

In accordance with the objectives set by the Quebec Residual Materials Management Policy, Quebec law will prohibit scrapping organic waste as of 2020. The objective is to recover 60% of all organic waste generated, all sectors combined (residential, industrial, commercial and institutional). That's why your collaboration in this collective project is vital for our region!



Why do I need a brown bin if I'm already practicing home composting?

Brown bins... perfect partners for home composters

Are you already practicing home composting with on-the-spot recovery of fruit and vegetable peelings, bread and coffee grounds? That compost is "Brown Gold", a natural fertilizer. Keep it up!

Municipal collection of food waste is an opportunity for you to optimize the recovery of other materials such as table waste that doesn't go into your home composter, like meat, fish, leftovers, pasta and salads with sauce or vinaigrette.

Even for a household that practices home composting, research indicates that 1.5 to 2.5 kg of materials will still go into the brown bin each week—100 kg per year! Just about 10 residences will amass a ton of materials diverted from landfill and recovered in a year! Not to mention that in winter, your brown bin is more accessible than the composter at the end of the yard. Door-to-door collection of brown bins promotes the recovery of all food waste.

LIST OF MATERIALS ACCEPTED and REFUSED BROWN BIN versus HOME COMPOSTER

*You have a domestic composter?
Keep up the good work! Your brown bin is a great accessory, too!*

 <p>Materials accepted in home composters but refused in the 45-litre brown bins</p> <p>Green waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wood chips ✓ Straw and hay ✓ Twigs ✓ Fall leaves ✓ Grass clippings (if grasscycling is not an option) ✓ Garden residues (hedge clippings, weeds that haven't gone to seed, etc.) ✓ Dead plants, dried flowers, leftover potting mix, including small amount of sand and earth 	 <p>Materials accepted in brown bins but refused in home composters</p> <p>Food waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Animal-based materials, such as dairy products and meat) ✓ Fish, seafood, shells and bones ✓ Oily materials, such as vegetable oil, mayonnaise and salad dressing ✓ Cakes and pastries ✓ Pet food, such as kibble 	<p>Warning! Some materials are unsuitable for both home composters and brown bins***</p> <p>Materials refused in brown bins and home composters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Sick plants or foliage ✗ Weeds that have gone to seed ✗ Tree branches and twigs ✗ Tree stumps and roots ✗ Vacuum cleaner bags and their contents ✗ Lint and dryer sheets ✗ BBQ briquettes ✗ Wax and chewing gum ✗ Cigarette butts and ashes ✗ Animal feces and litter (because they may contain pathogens) ✗ Dead animals or animal parts ✗ Materials contaminated with pesticides or hazardous products (e.g. treated wood)
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*** All hazardous or contaminated products should be deposited at the MRC occentre network.

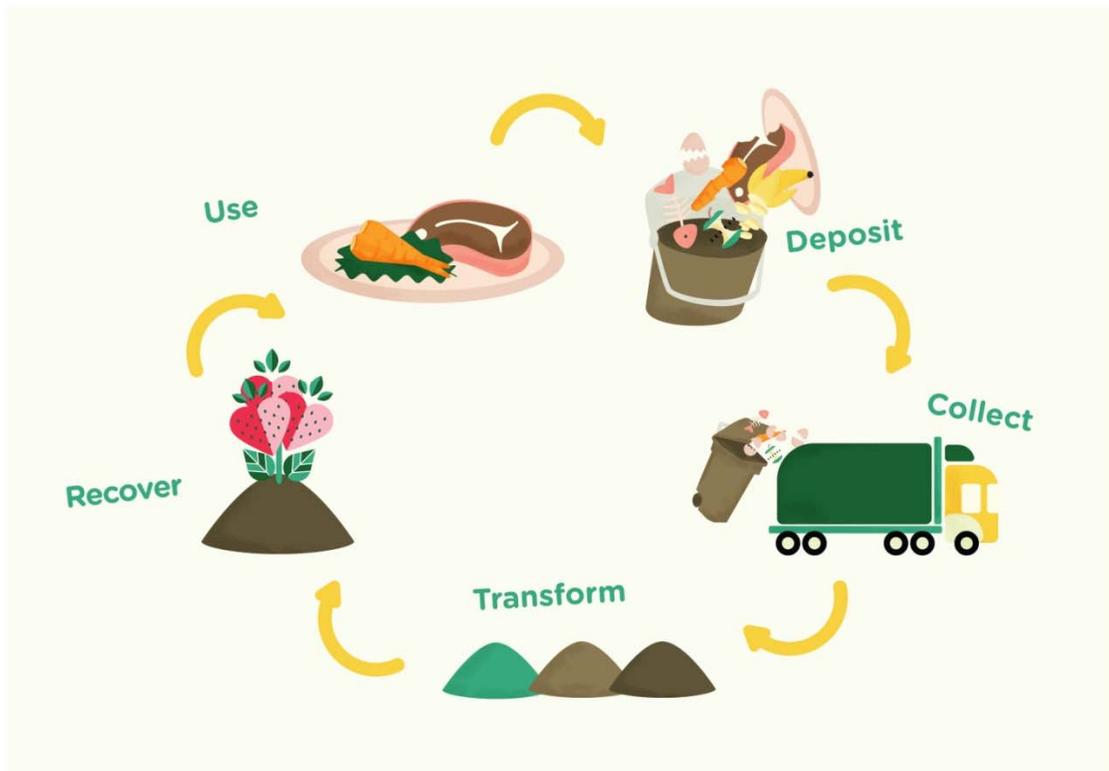
Place other refused materials at the side of the road for the various municipal collections of household garbage, branches, fall leaves and other green residues. For more information on these collections, contact the Engineering and Environment Division.



What happens to the materials collected?

Collected materials are transported to the GSI Englobe treatment site in Lachute, which won the MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges tender. Brown bin waste is mixed with structuring constituents such as wood chips and then piled outdoors in windrows. The windrows are regularly turned to speed up the decomposition process. When mature, the compost is sieved and then sold to businesses and farmers, or redistributed to municipalities whose contract includes this option.

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



Who is responsible for collecting food waste?

Each municipality is responsible for collecting and transporting food waste on its territory. MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges is responsible for processing collected food waste and for the quality of the compost produced by the service provider.

Why a 45-litre bin?

Given that the amount of table waste generated per household is about 2 kg per week, its capacity is appropriate. Remember also that food waste collection excludes green waste and fall leaves, which are more voluminous.

BAG MANAGEMENT

Why are plastic bags refused?

Whether 100% compostable, oxo-degradable or biodegradable, plastic bags are not accepted in food waste collection. The materials accepted and rejected in your bin depend on the site and the processing technology.

Given the diversified supply and complexity of different types of bags available on the market, the risk of contamination and rejection during the processing of organic materials is too high. In addition, these bags incur increased operating costs. We ask you to use paper bags, soiled cardboard or newspaper.

Where can I get paper bags?

In any grocery store or hardware store. You can use bags with or without cellulose film.

Alternatives to paper bags

Use newspapers, flyers, paper grocery bags, cardboard packaging or soiled cardboard.

BIN MANAGEMENT

How to prevent undesirable elements (odours, flies and maggots) from developing in your wheeled bin and kitchen countertop bin?

- Use a corner of your freezer to store animal or smelly materials until collection day
- Clean your bin using plenty of water and a disinfectant such as vinegar or biodegradable soap
- Sprinkle the materials with a deodorizing agent such as baking soda
- Store your bin in the shade

Who owns the bin?

The municipality owns the bin.

What do I do with my bin when I move?

Like your recycling bin, the brown bins are linked to an address and must remain on site for the next owner or occupant.



What do I do in case of breakage, loss or theft of my brown bin?

Contact the Public Works Department at 450-455-3371, option 3, or at t.publics@ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca.

May I have a second bin?

No. A single 45-litre bin is provided per residence. Food waste collection in our territory excludes green waste and fall leaves, which can be bulky. In addition, the largest generators of food waste, such as the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sectors, are not included in the initial phase of food waste collection.

What should I do when I go on vacation?

Just put your brown bin on the street the week before you leave, then clean it and leave it empty until you get back (if necessary, you can store materials in the freezer or refrigerator between the collection day and the date of your departure). In the summer, your bin will become a place of interest for “undesirable visitors” if it contains food waste and is left in the heat too long.

May I put compostable dishes in the bin?

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

Given the diversified supply and complexity of the different types of compostable tableware on the market, there is a high risk of contamination and rejection in processing organic materials.

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

No. Green waste, yard trimmings and fall leaves are not accepted in the food waste collection. However, they are accepted in the green waste collection. The autumn leaves go to farmers in the region, which is beneficial for their soil and more economical.

In addition, the Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC is currently working on developing a new technology that would make it possible to recover food waste on its territory, which does not treat green waste. Note that the MRC wants to encourage citizens to develop this greener and more economical habit, but until there is a chosen treatment technology, materials may go in the same truck (May to September), because during this period and with the current contract, green and food residues are composted together.

Grass clippings: leave them on the ground and practice grasscycling!

Fall leaves: shred them on the spot and practice herbicycling!

Green waste: put in a home composter and make compost out of your yard waste



These practices are strongly encouraged and bring 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 grass will be more hardy during heat waves!

Can the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sectors participate in the collection of food waste?

The initial phase, planned for 2018, is for the residential sector and targets family units and multiple units of 4 units or less. In 2019, multiple units of more than 4 units will be served. The industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sectors similar to the residential sector will also be served by a municipal collection service in the future years.

