



Frequently Asked Questions

What can go in my FOGO bin?

As a general rule, any waste that comes from a plant or animal can go in your FOGO bin.

- ✓ All **food scraps** including raw or cooked bones, eggshells, citrus, dairy products, rice, pasta, coffee grounds, tea bags, unfinished meals plus out of date food removed from its packaging.
- ✓ **Garden waste** including grass clippings, flowers, leaves, weeds and branches (less than 20cm thick).
- ✓ Hair, fur and **animal waste** including organic kitty litter, soiled bird cage paper and pet faeces.
- ✓ **Paper products** including shredded paper, paper towels, napkins, tissues and food-covered paper or cardboard such as pizza boxes.

Please no soil, fabric or plastic, even if marked as degradable or compostable.

Will my FOGO bin smell?

There are some simple steps you can take to reduce FOGO odours:

- Layer food waste in your FOGO bin with garden clippings, leaves, grass or paper;
- Keep particularly smelly food waste (such as shellfish, cheese and meat scraps) in a paper bag in your freezer and drop it in the FOGO bin closer to collection;
- Wrap animal faeces in paper;
- Sprinkle bicarbonate of soda inside your bin for a natural way to neutralise odours;
- Drop some cardboard in the bottom of your FOGO bin before you start refilling after each collection; and
- Hose out your bin occasionally to stop the build-up of waste.

Can I use compostable or degradable plastic bags in my FOGO bin?

No. Plastic contamination in compost is hard to remove. There are different types of these bags available and many contain some form of plastic which doesn't decompose. To avoid accidentally contaminating your FOGO bin, use newspaper or paper towel if you need to wrap organic waste.

Won't my garbage bin be too small when we switch to fortnightly collection?

If your kerbside garbage bin is often full, take a look at what's inside and consider these options:

- Soft plastics including carry bags, biscuit wrappers, cereal bag liners, bread bags, foil chip packets and many others can be recycled free in the RedCycle bins at all Coles and Woolworths supermarkets (drop them off whenever you shop).
- Plastic bottles, plastic containers, tin cans, aluminium cans, empty aerosol cans, glass bottles and jars, paper and cardboard can go in your kerbside recycling bin.
- Paint tins, light globes, fluoro tubes, batteries and electronic waste can be taken to the Resource Recovery Centre for free recycling.
- Toys, clothing and bedding can be donated to charities for resale. Some charities also collect worn textiles to cut up and sell as rags.
- When shopping, choose products with less packaging. Avoiding waste in the first place is one of the simplest ways to keep your garbage bin from overflowing.

Placing food and garden organic waste in your FOGO bin will free up space in your garbage bin too.

Every household is different. To find ways to reduce your household's waste follow Rethink Waste Tasmania on Facebook, visit www.rethinkwaste.com.au or call Council for advice.

I compost at home already, why should I pay for FOGO?

Your council rates are used to fund many different community services; some you benefit from directly and others indirectly. It's a fair system in areas with smaller populations like ours because we can provide more services that wouldn't be possible if only those who directly benefited paid.

For the many households that don't have animals or the space, time or physical ability for a home compost system, FOGO gives them a sustainable way to dispose of their organic waste.

FOGO also provides a new, safe way to dispose of more items than in a standard home compost system including perennial weeds and pet waste.

If you already have a home compost system, you'll appreciate that the more people composting either at home or via the Council FOGO service, the better it is for *everyone*. Composting reduces harmful greenhouse gases in our local landfill, helps our landfill to last longer, and it puts nutrients back into Tasmanian gardens and soils.

Where will my FOGO go?

FOGO waste will be delivered to the Launceston Waste Centre's new organic facility where it will go through a hot, aerobic process to create nutrient-rich, weed-free compost. The compost is used on Council-maintained parks across Launceston and is a super food for plants.

It's expected that FOGO will be processed in the North West in the future, as more councils in our region start FOGO collection services.