

# Food & Garden Organics Collection

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **What is the FOGO kerbside collection?**

FOGO stands for Food Organics Garden Organics. The FOGO kerbside collection is for food and garden waste such as kitchen scraps, lawn clippings, small branches and garden debris.

Material from the FOGO bin (green lid) will be collected fortnightly on the alternate week to your recycling bin (yellow lid).

### **What are the benefits of the FOGO service?**

The service is an easy way for householders to actively make a positive difference to our environment. The collection of FOGO material reduces the amount of waste going to landfill, greenhouse gas emissions and produces quality compost. FOGO material is 100% processed at the Launceston Waste Centre's new organic processing facility.

### **What is the cost for this service?**

There are no costs for the collection service just a one-off fee for the FOGO pack which includes a 240 litre wheelie bin (green lid), 7 litre kitchen caddy for your scraps and education material. The FOGO pack is \$65 and is payable upon registration.

### **Do I have to use the FOGO service?**

No, participation is optional but have a look at the benefits and how it helps our environment.

### **I already compost my garden and food scraps so why do I need a FOGO bin?**

FOGO allows you to dispose of more items than a standard household compost system including perennial weeds, dairy, meat and bones, avoiding the need for these items to go to general waste.

### **Can I opt in to the FOGO service if I rent?**

Yes. By registering, the bin becomes your property. If you move you take the bin with you and notify council of your new address. Provided you are still within the collection area your service will continue.

### **When do I put the FOGO bin out?**

The FOGO bin (green lid) is collected fortnightly on the opposite week of your recycling bin (yellow lid). Place your bin out by 6am on the morning of collection.

### **How many FOGO bins can I get?**

One bin and one kitchen caddy per waste service.

### **How much can my bin weigh?**

The maximum weight is 80kg. The mechanical arm on the collection vehicle cannot lift bins over this weight.

### **What happens if my bin is too heavy?**

If your FOGO bin weighs over 80kg, it will not be collected and you will receive a notice in your letterbox. Your options are to remove some organic material and wait two weeks until the next collection or, remove organic material and contact Customer Service to arrange an additional collection, this will incur a fee. For 2017-18, the fee is \$20 (urban) or \$40 (rural).

### **How can I keep my FOGO below 80kgs?**

- Mow lawns when they are dry (wet grass is heavier than dry)
- Ensure leaf matter and clippings are dry
- Aerate the FOGO from time to time to release moisture
- Follow the what can and can't go in the FOGO bin guide
- Shake soil off all weeds and unwanted plants
- Don't add large limbs or trunks from trees and shrubs

### What happens if my collection is missed or my bin is stolen or damaged?

Contact Customer Service weekdays, 8.30am to 5pm on 6323 3000. These issues are handled the same way as the current kerbside service for waste and recycling.

### What CAN go in the FOGO bin?

#### FOOD ORGANICS

✔	Fruit & vegetable scraps, including citrus
✔	De-packaged out-of-date/left-over food
✔	Meat, bones & eggshells
✔	Bread, pasta & rice
✔	Tea bags & coffee grounds
✔	Dairy products
✔	Seafood
✔	Take away food
✔	Baked goods
✔	Pizza boxes
✔	Paper towel & used tissues

#### GARDEN ORGANICS

✔	Pruning
✔	Grass clippings
✔	Weeds
✔	Branches*
✔	Plants
✔	Small shrubs
✔	Twigs* (no logs)
✔	Leaves & flowers
✔	Untreated timber* (no logs)
✔	Newspaper
✔	Shredded paper
✔	Hair & fur

\* maximum 20cm diameter

### What CANT go in the FOGO bin?

✘	Bags plastic, compostable or biodegradable
✘	Clinical, medical or pharmaceutical wastes
✘	Concrete, rocks, ceramics, stones, bricks
✘	E-waste
✘	Food packaging
✘	Glass
✘	Garden hoses
✘	batteries, light globes, gas bottles, paint
✘	Liquid

✘	Metals
✘	Nappies
✘	Plant pots
✘	Plastics
✘	Soil
✘	Tree stumps
✘	Treated, painted, stained or laminated timber, particleboard or plywood
✘	Textiles

### Can I use compostable or biodegradable bags?

No. We cannot accept plastic, compostable or biodegradable bags or liners of any kind. Plastic contamination in compost is difficult to remove. Due to the many different types of compostable and biodegradable bags on the market, it can result in people using the wrong type and unknowingly contaminate the product. Line your kitchen caddy with newspaper or paper towel, which can also be used to wrap your organic waste before placing it in the FOGO bin.

### What if I put the wrong items in the FOGO bin?

Make sure everyone in your household knows what can and can't go in the FOGO bin. If something gets put in by mistake, carefully retrieve and place in the correct bin.

The organic material collected in the FOGO bin will be turned into a compost product used by Council on parks and gardens throughout the city. Contamination is considered to be any item which cannot breakdown through the compost process and when contamination is placed in the bin it has the potential to spread throughout the organic material which means it cannot be used. As you can imagine, glass and plastic items have the potential to break into small pieces and the compost product would not be safe to use.

### **Will my 240 litre FOGO bin get smelly and attract pests?**

Food organics can create some odours as they decompose. Here are some ideas to reduce the likelihood of a smelly bin:

- Wrap all food scraps in newspaper or paper towel
- Put food scraps like prawn shells and meat scraps in the freezer and transfer to your FOGO bin closer to collection day
- Layer your food waste among garden organics to reduce odours and mess in your bin
- Line the bottom of your FOGO bin with cardboard or garden material to avoid organic waste sticking to the base
- Sprinkle bicarbonate of soda inside your bin or caddy for a natural way to neutralise odours
- Wash your bin out on a regular basis

### **What happens to the collected food and garden organics?**

Processing of the organic material collected in FOGO bins takes place at Council's purpose-built composting facility at the Launceston Waste Centre. The composting process is undertaken with forced aeration technology to ensure the material is kept aerobic so that the microbes can convert the product into usable compost. The process follows strict quality standards (AS4454-2012) to ensure the compost product is free of weed seeds and pathogens. When fully operational, this compost will be available for the community to purchase. This compost will be used at Council maintained parks throughout the Launceston municipality.

### **What are the benefits of compost to soils?**

Compost is a source of slow release nutrients for soils. Improving the structure of soils, compost increases water retention, soil carbon and enhances overall soil health providing a super food for plants.

### **How do I register and find out more information about the service?**

Online: [www.launceston.tas.gov.au/FOGO](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/FOGO) Phone: Customer Service 6323 3000 Email: [contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au)