



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summertime tips for Vernon's new curbside organics collection program

Vernon residents now have a couple of months under their belts with the City's new curbside organics collection program. The City would like to thank residents for their early participation in the program and the steps they've taken to help extend the lifespan of our landfill, create a reusable product, and reduce our impact on the environment.

Now that summertime has arrived in the North Okanagan and temperatures are starting to rise, the City is offering tips and reminders to help residents mitigate odours, keep pests away from their carts, and ensure carts can be completely emptied during collection.

Tips to minimize odour and keep your cart clean:

- Wrap kitchen waste in newspaper or a BPI-certified compostable bag before placing it in the cart. Alternatively, you can freeze kitchen waste until collection day.
- Place a piece of cardboard at the bottom of your cart to keep waste from sticking.
- Rinse your cart periodically with water and vinegar and then sprinkle it with baking soda.
- Store your cart indoors. If it must be outdoors, choose a ventilated and shady area.
- Place your organics cart for collection every week, even if it's only partially filled.
- Keep the lid closed at all times.

Tips for complete collection:

Did you know that overfilling your organics cart can cause material to get stuck? This can lead to only partial collection and a whole lot of disappointment. Help us help you by following these easy guidelines:

- Layer kitchen organics with yard waste and soiled paper or newspaper.
- Keep materials loose in the cart.
- Avoid overfilling the cart (the lid must close).
- Avoid pushing down or compacting materials in the cart.
- Avoid placing large amounts of grass clippings in the cart. They can become heavy and compacted very quickly, especially if wet.
- Place carts at the curb by 7 a.m. on collection day. Please do not place carts the night before, as this can attract wildlife.

- Ensure carts placed at the curb are 1m (an arm's length) away from all other objects.
- Ensure all materials in your organics cart are compostable. Materials such as rocks, soil, plastic bags, animal waste, and branches that are more than 0.5" in diameter cannot be collected.

Tips for managing additional organic waste:

Overfilled or overweight carts cannot be collected. Residents are reminded that cart lids must be closed when placed for collection.

If you have more material than can fit in your organics cart:

- Consider storing the additional material until your next collection day.
- Consider taking larger amounts of yard waste to the [Greater Vernon Diversion and Disposal Facility](#), where residential yard and garden waste can be disposed of free of charge.

Weight restrictions for Vernon's curbside waste collection carts are as follows:

- 120L cart: 50 kg (110 lbs)
- 240L cart: 75 kg (165 lbs)

For more information on Vernon's new curbside organics collection program and a list of accepted compostable materials, visit www.vernon.ca/organics.

✓ DO

- Layer kitchen organics with yard waste and soiled paper/newspaper
- Wrap kitchen waste in newspaper or a BPI-certified compostable bag
- Keep materials loose in the cart

X DON'T

- Overfill your cart (the lid **MUST** close)
- Push down or compact materials into the cart
- Place large amounts of grass clippings in the cart (these can become heavy and compacted very quickly, especially if wet)