



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

How to use paper bags to recycle food

Compostable plastic liners are not accepted in our green bins. Paper bags make for a great alternative.

94%

of Glen Eira residents recycle food in the green bin or home compost



Paper bags can be used as a food wrap or as a kitchen caddy liner

As a food wrap



Paper bags can be used to wrap up food and help keep scraps contained. You can reuse any small paper bag for this, such as a brown paper lunch bag, a paper bag from the bakery, or a mushroom produce bag from the supermarket.

1. Put your food scraps in a paper bag
2. Roll or scrunch the top of the bag closed
3. Put the bag in your green bin outside

As a kitchen caddy liner

Some paper bags are made to fit inside a kitchen caddy as a liner:

1. Place the paper bag inside your kitchen caddy
2. Add food waste
3. Roll or scrunch the top of the bag closed
4. Carry your kitchen caddy to your green bin
5. Tip your kitchen caddy upside down so the bag and food scraps fall straight into the bin



Tips for best results

- Drain any liquid from your scraps before putting them in a paper bag
- Add paper towel to the bottom of the bag or your caddy to soak up liquids
- Paper liners can be delicate when wet. Tip the bag straight into the green bin from your caddy to avoid it splitting



What goes in your green bin



- ✓ Vegetable and fruit scraps



- ✓ Meat scraps and bones



- ✓ Seafood scraps and shells



- ✓ Dairy leftovers and egg shells



- ✓ Bread, pasta, cereal and rice



- ✓ Newspapers



- ✓ Garden waste



- ✓ Used paper towel and tissues



- ✓ Small paper bags and liners



- ✗ No plastic, compostable or biodegradable bags

Community member tips and tricks

Here are some things that work for other households:

- Wrap scraps in newspaper (reuse the monthly *Glen Eira News*)
- Rinse out the green bin with a hose every so often
- Use a couple of sheets of newspaper at the bottom of the green bin to stop anything getting stuck
- Use dry layers like grass clippings or pea straw in the green bin

FAQs

Why are compostable plastic liners not accepted?

Your food scraps and garden waste get turned into compost in six to 10 days. Compostable plastic liners take much longer to break down, leaving small plastic fragments behind in the compost. For our compost to meet standards and be used on farms and gardens, we need to avoid putting compostable bags in the green bin.

What can I do to minimise smells in the green bin?

- Put your green bin out every week, even if it's not full.
- Keep your bin closed and in a shady spot.
- Store smelly foods like meats and seafood in the fridge or freezer until the night before collection.
- Use layers of dry materials like newspaper or leaves to prevent scraps from sticking to your bin.

Why should food go into the green bin?

Rather than sending food scraps to landfill where they rot and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, food recycled in the green bin creates compost that is used to nourish soils on Victorian farms, parks and gardens.

Find out more

For more information on food waste recycling and where to find paper bag products, scan the QR code or visit www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/food-waste

