



Food Organics Garden Organics Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is FOGO?

FOGO stands for Food Organics and Garden Organics. From 1 July, your green lidded bin will become a FOGO bin. This means you can place food scraps in the bin along with your garden clippings. All councils in Victoria are required to introduce a FOGO service under Victorian Government legislation.

What happens to my food and garden organics?

Gippsland business, Pinegro will process the food and garden organics at a new industrial composting facility in Morwell. The materials will be converted into compost and soil conditioner which will be used in parks, gardens and farms.

When will FOGO be introduced in South Gippsland Shire?

The new FOGO service will start from 1 July.

Will bin collections change?

Yes and no. Your bin collection day will not change; however the collection frequency will. From 1 July your green lidded bin (FOGO) will be collected weekly and your yellow lidded bin (recycling) and red lidded bins (general waste) will be collected fortnightly.

What can go in my FOGO bin?

- Food leftovers
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Meat, fish and bones (raw and cooked)
- Eggs and eggshells
- Cheese and yoghurt
- All bakery items (including bread, cakes, crackers)
- Bread, pasta, rice, noodles
- Spoiled foods
- Citrus and onions
- Loose tea leaves and coffee grounds (excluding teabags and coffee pods)
- Garden pruning and grass clippings
- Flowers and leaves
- Weeds
- Council issued compostable caddy liners



What cannot go in my FOGO bin?

- Food packaging including fruit stickers, rubber bands and cling wrap
- Plastic bags
- Cat litter, dog poo and other animal faeces
- Bricks, rubble, sand, dirt or other building waste
- Tree branches over 10cm in diameter or too long to allow the lid to be closed
- Stones
- Tree stumps
- Treated or painted timber
- Plastic pots and containers

What are the benefits of introducing FOGO?

Food waste placed in your general waste bin goes to landfill, where it is a lost resource and produces methane—a potent greenhouse gas. By placing food scraps in your FOGO bin, this material is recovered and processed into compost, delivering ongoing environmental benefits and significantly reducing emissions.

Diverting food waste from landfill also helps reduce costs, as the Victorian Government applies an increasing waste levy to landfill disposal, and supports extending the lifespan of existing landfill facilities.

Your FOGO bin can also complement your home composting system by accepting items many systems cannot process, including cooked food, meat, seafood, bones, dairy and citrus.

Will I receive a kitchen caddy and compostable liners?

Yes. During May or June, Council will deliver a kitchen caddy, a roll of compostable liners and an information pack to all properties with a Council provided kerbside waste service.

The compostable liners are compliant with Australian Standards (4736). If you run out, you can collect more from Council's main office, Coal Creek or the Visitor Information Centre in Foster.

Is there an alternative to using the compostable liners?

Yes. You can line your kitchen caddy with 1–2 sheets of newspaper, butcher's paper, deli paper or paper towel (nonglossy only).

Plastic bags — including bioplastic, degradable and biodegradable bags — are not allowed in your FOGO bin as they contaminate the compost.

Why shouldn't I tie my caddy liner?

Thick knots contaminate compost because they do not break down properly during the composting process. Leaving liners untied helps them break down more easily and prevents contamination.

Does food need to be removed from its packaging before it goes into the FOGO bin?

Yes, this includes fruit stickers, rubber bands and tags. Only food scraps and garden clippings can be placed in your FOGO bin.

Why will my green-lidded FOGO bin be collected weekly, and my red-lidded general waste bin collected fortnightly?

Our bin audits have found that more than half of the waste in a typical general waste bin is food scraps, garden waste and recyclables. Proper sorting of materials means your general waste bin fills more slowly and will only need to be collected every two weeks. With food and garden organics now placed in your FOGO bin, weekly collection helps manage food waste and reduce smells.

I live in Venus Bay/Waratah Bay/Walkerville Promontory Views Estate/Sandy Point. How is my kerbside waste service changing?

In line with Victorian Government legislation, Council is standardising kerbside services across all towns and properties. This means that from 1 July, all households in serviced areas— including those in Venus Bay, Waratah Bay, Sandy Point and Walkerville — will receive the same service: weekly FOGO (240L), fortnightly general waste (120L), and fortnightly mixed recycling (240L).

While this change means that some optional services and extra recycling will no longer be available, it ensures our kerbside service meets new State Government regulations and provides a reliable, year-round collection for everyone.

What if a fortnightly general rubbish collection doesn't work for my household?

We understand that some households may produce more general waste due to household size, medical needs, or other circumstances. If you need a larger bin or extra service, you can request an upgrade for an additional cost. To do this, please complete our [online form](#) or contact Council's Customer Service team on 5662 9200, who will organise the changes.

Get to know your FOGO!



South Gippsland
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What if my green-lidded garden organics bin is already too full?

Your FOGO bin will now be collected weekly, giving you more capacity. You can also request a second FOGO bin for an additional cost. For other tips on how to get the most from your bin visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/FOGO.

How can I reduce bin odours?

- Keep your bin in a shaded spot with the lid closed.
- Empty your caddy regularly and give it a quick rinse as needed to keep it clean.
- Place grass clippings or garden prunings at the base of your FOGO bin, and in layers with food scraps.
- Keep smelly foods like meat and seafood scraps in the freezer until bin night.
- Sprinkle a little bi-carb soda in your caddy or FOGO bin to absorb odours.

I'm concerned about pests and flies, what can I do about this?

Research shows that pests are not usually a problem with food organics collections when food is kept in closed bins and caddies. Council's free caddies come with a close fitting lid — try to make sure your kitchen caddy and FOGO bin are not overfilled, and that lids close properly when not in use.

Do households that waste very little food still need FOGO?

It's great you don't have much food waste, but your FOGO bin can also provide you with an opportunity to dispose of all food scraps — plate leftovers, bones, citrus, eggshells, meat, dairy, garden waste and more.

What if I already compost or reuse my food scraps at home?

That's great — home composting or feeding scraps to worms and chickens helps reduce waste, and you can keep doing it. Use your FOGO bin to complement your system, not replace it. It can take all food scraps, including items you might not put in home composting, like citrus, meat, bones, seafood, dairy, leftovers, and noxious weeds. You can also use your FOGO bin when your compost, bokashi bin, or worm farm is full or resting.

How does the addition of FOGO waste services affect my rates?

For most households, the cost of this improved service is minimal. Landfill is more expensive than composting, so with less waste going to landfill and more being composted, costs for Council and the community are kept manageable into the future.

Some households may see different charges, such as those with extra services and those moving from optional or six month services to year-round collections.

I don't have a council kerbside waste service, can I still participate in food and garden organics recycling?

Residents without a council kerbside service can drop-off FOGO at any Council transfer station. Make sure to separate your food and garden waste and put it in the bins provided.

My general waste bin contains nappies/incontinence pants, won't smells be a problem?

We understand this is a common concern for households using these products. Experience from other councils shows that, when managed well, general waste bins are not noticeably smellier over a two-week collection cycle.

Here are some simple tips to help minimise odours:

- Dispose of solid waste into the toilet before placing items in the bin.
- Wrap the products tightly (using a nappy sack, bag or newspaper) and place in your bin with the lid closed.
- Store your general waste bin in a shady area.
- Check that your bin is in good condition and closes properly — [report any damage to Council for repair or replacement](#).
- Add a small amount of vinegar, bi-carb soda or a few drops of eucalyptus oil to your bin.



