

# FAQ

## IMPLANTATION :

### Q : Where does the organic waste go?

A : The organic waste will go to a compost site situated in the borough of Saint-Laurent. However, since the construction of this site will only be finished around 2019, your waste will be sent to a composting site located in Brownsburg-Chatham near Lachute for now.

### Q : Are we obliged to participate? We haven't been asked.

A : Public consultations were held in Montreal for the drafting of the Plan métropolitain de gestion des matières résiduelles (PMGMR). This plan expresses the means to reach the goals of the Politique québécoise de gestion des matières résiduelles and the Plan d'action 2011-2015 which seek to ban, by 2020, the burial of organic waste (among others). The city of Montreal has adopted a by-law in August, 2016 which effectively prohibits the disposal as household waste of any matter destined to another collection, including organic matter. We therefore advise you strongly to participate to help reach the Quebec goals in waste reduction. Unless a specific request not to receive a bin has been made, all households minimally receive a kitchen bin and an outdoor bin, or an outdoor bin to share with a neighbor.

## HOW TO USE YOUR BIN:

### Q : Do we need to put a bag in the bin?

A : You're not obliged to use a bag, either in your kitchen bin or in your brown bin, but it will help fight odours and keep your bins clean. If you want to use them, you can buy compostable paper bags at the local grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores (ex IGA, Pharmaprix, Rona). If you don't want to buy bags, you can use newsprint to line your bins and wrap around smelly materials. You can find free newspapers at stores or in metro stations.

### Q : The new brown bin is too big for my apartment and I don't have a balcony nor yard – what can I do?

A : You can share your bin with a neighbour. If you want to ask for another size, please use our online request form or call us at 514 634-7205.

### Q : Why are compostable plastic bags prohibited in Lachine, while you can use them in other parts of Montreal?

A : The site which will be used by Lachine does not have the installations which meet the criteria established by the government to treat compostable plastic bags. Also, when organic waste starts to decompose in a closed plastic bag, this could cause worse odors since there's no oxygen available.

## PICK-UP :

### Q : What do I do if I forget to put my bin at the curb?

A : Until the next collection, a simple solution is to keep your bin in a shady location. You can also freeze the most odorant waste to stop decomposition.

### Q : If my bin is not full, can I take it out anyways?

A : Even if your bin is not full, it will be collected. We really advise you to take it to the curb every week.

### Q : When I have a lot of garden residues, what do I do? Will it still be collected?

A : You can put those in a paper bag, a cardboard box or a regular garbage can with handles but without cover next to your bin and it will be picked up.

### Q : Can I continue to put branches on the curb for pick up, with the brown bin?

A : Some conditions are important to respect. In your bin, you can put conifer branches of 5cm or less in diameter, and less than a meter long. All waste from leaf trees is prohibited, though: this is to prevent the spreading of ash tree disease. For any bigger branches, please contact 311.

## WORRIES:

### Q : When it gets hot in the summer, it will get smelly, no?

A : It will not be worse than a regular garbage can. However, there are different ways to prevent this inconvenience. First of all, don't leave your brown bin in the sun if possible. If not, you can sprinkle some baking soda in your bin. You can also add some drops of basil essential oil; this will stop odours as well as repel flies. It's also a good idea to put some newsprint on the bottom of your bin and add soiled paper napkins, handkerchiefs and towels to your waste to absorb liquids. You can also freeze your organic waste until the day of the pick-up.

### Q : Food scraps outside will certainly attract animals?

A : The brown bin has a clip to keep it closed. If ever you do have ferocious squirrels, you can put some Vick's Vaporub inside the corners of the cover of the bin. They really don't like that!

### Q : And what about vermin?

A : Fruit flies might appear around your kitchen bin. Please keep it closed at all times. Other tricks include:

- A wine cork cut in half, on top of the cover
- A sheet of fabric softener, on top of the cover
- Layers: each time you add organic waste, cover it with layer of newsprint or other (soiled) paper waste.

### Q : Compost is disgusting: I don't want to touch it.

A : You can wrap your organic waste in a sheet of newsprint and then place it directly in the paper bag or in the brown bin.

## OTHER :

### Q : I have a handicap and cannot bring the bin to the curb.

A : Please consider asking help from a neighbor.

### Q : I'm too old to bring my bin to the curb; it's too hard

A : Consider asking your neighbor if you can use their brown bin. That way, you will just have the little kitchen bin to bring outside.

### Q : I will soon move and I won't be using the brown bin. What do I do?

A : The bins are the property of the borough. Please leave it at the house for the next tenants.

### Q : I'm already composting in my garden; what do I do with this bin? I don't need it.

A : Congratulations! Please continue. Your new bin will allow you to collect some organic materials which are not fit for a garden composter: meat, bones, fish, as well as soiled paper and cardboard, and green waste. You will get even less waste in the garbage!

### Q : What do I do if my bin is broken or stolen?

A : Please contact 311

### Q : Why can't we put cat litter or dog poop in the bin while meat and bones are accepted?

A : This is a public health issue: animal stools can contain intestinal parasites, traces of medication or antibiotics, as well as bacteria that constitute a serious danger to humans. This is why they are prohibited.

This document has been prepared by the GRAME for the Borough of Lachine / May 2016