RECYCLING HACKS

Food Scraps

Repurpose a food scraps collection container

Are you looking for an alternative to the pail provided? To save money, use a storage container you already have at home to collect food scraps.

To save time, Food Network Chef Rachel Ray collects scraps in a bowl on the counter. She sorts garbage, recycling and food scraps when she's finished cooking.

A yogurt container is the perfect size for collecting coffee grounds, paper filters and tea bags- which can also be recycled with food scraps.

A pitcher conveniently fits into the refrigerator or under the sink for out-of-sight storage.
It can also be easily cleaned in a dishwasher.

To reduce mess and avoid odor, store your food scraps container and/or bag in the refrigerator or freezer until you're ready to take out the garbage.

To share your recycling hacks, email Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov

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Make or purchase a food scraps container

Are you looking for an alternative to the pail provided? Make a food scraps collection container by drilling ventilation holes in the lid of an old coffee canister.

Glue a charcoal filter inside the lid of your collection container to control odor.
An inexpensive air filter replacement for a cat litter box works well.

There are a variety of collection systems available for purchase. Search for “hang a garbage bag” online to find an assortment of gadgets like the one pictured.

Give your existing kitchen garbage container a side-kick. This small pail can hang on waste cans, kitchen drawers or stand on it’s own.

This small container has a foot pedal to open the lid. It also conveniently fits clear bathroom waste can liners.

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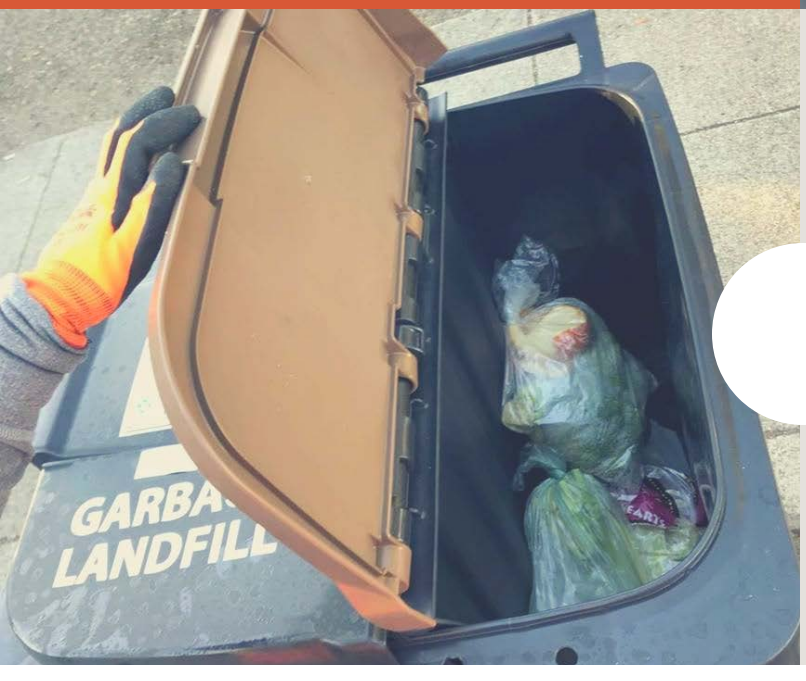
Choose a liner for your collection container

To keep containers clean, we encourage using a bag to line your kitchen collection container.

You do not need to use a compostable/ biodegradable bag. **You may use any clear bag as a liner.**

If you prefer to purchase liners, 3-5 gallon bags will best fit the pail provided.

What is the best option? Choose a bag that is headed for the garbage (e.g. an used produce bag, bread bag, Ziploc, etc.).



Yes, liner bags can be placed in split-carts. To keep your cart clean, all bags should be tied-off or sealed prior to placement in your cart.

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Keep your container handy and "ick"-free

Where do you keep your food scraps container? If you often cook at home, it might make sense to keep it near your prep station.

To save precious counter space, one crafty resident attached the pail provided to an ordinary kitchen garbage can.

This resident keeps their food scraps collection container in the dishwasher. The advantage is it's off the counter, but close to the sink.

Sprinkle baking soda into your container to absorb moisture and odor.

To reduce mess and avoid odor, store your food scraps container and/or bag in the fridge or freezer until you're ready to take out the garbage.

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