

Here are some tips on how to help care for the environment in your daily life.



## Why sort waste?

When unrecyclable materials are put into the recycling bin, or when non-compostable materials are put into the food and compost bin, this is called **contamination**.

Contaminated recycling and compost gets thrown away as garbage, so it is important to put your waste into the right containers.

Contamination disrupts the recycling and composting processes. **If there is contamination, then all of the potential recycling or compost is thrown away.**

Use the "Where Does It Go" tool to help with sorting. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera!



SCAN ME

## Where do my bags go?

### Plastic Garbage Bags

Place plastic garbage bags in the garbage.



### Compostable Bags

Put food scraps and garden waste into a paper bag, a compostable bag or directly into the compost bin without any bag.



### No Bags in Recycling

Your recyclables will not be picked up if they are bagged.



Visit [seattle.gov/utilities](http://seattle.gov/utilities) for more information about waste sorting, why this matters, and what else you can do to help.

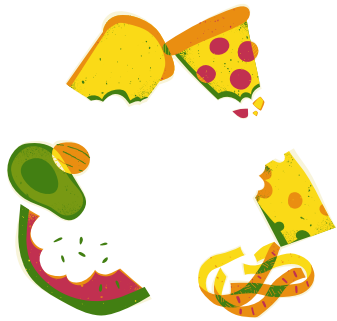


In Seattle, we sort waste into three main categories: compost, recycling and garbage. This guide will give you the tips and tools to sorting waste.

Seattle Housing Authority's

guide to properly dispose of compost, recycling and garbage

## Why compost?



A City of Seattle law requires residents to not put food scraps, yard waste, compostable paper and recyclables in their garbage.

## Composting is good for the Earth

- **Protects our climate:** In landfills, food waste takes up space and produces a lot of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Composting is one method to reduce methane emissions from organic waste that is otherwise stockpiled or sent to landfill.
- **Returns valuable nutrients** to the soil that grows our food and gardens.

## Composting saves money

- **Helps prevent costly repairs** due to clogged drains and sewer lines.
- **Can reduce garbage service costs and sewer overflow costs**, especially when combined with a successful recycling program.



## Why recycle?



- Reduces pollution.
- Saves energy.
- Can be returned to raw materials and reused in manufacturing new goods.
- Diverts waste from being thrown into the landfill.
- Almost 40% of all waste is recyclable.



## Tips to remember:

- **Empty, clean, and dry:** Remember to clean out your recyclables and keep them dry. No food or liquids in recycling.
- **When in doubt, throw it out:** If you're not sure if an item is recyclable, check with the "where does it go tool" or throw it in the garbage.
- **Keep bags out:** Do not put plastic bags or plastic wrap in the recycling cart, even if bundled. Keep materials loose in the cart and do not bag your recyclables.

[seattlehousing.org](http://seattlehousing.org)

## What about bulk waste?

Dumping bulky or large items on your property creates more cost and work for residents, property managers, and waste collectors.

Help Seattle Housing Authority and your community by correctly sorting and disposing of your waste! Before getting rid of unwanted items, see if it can be redirected from the garbage to donations.

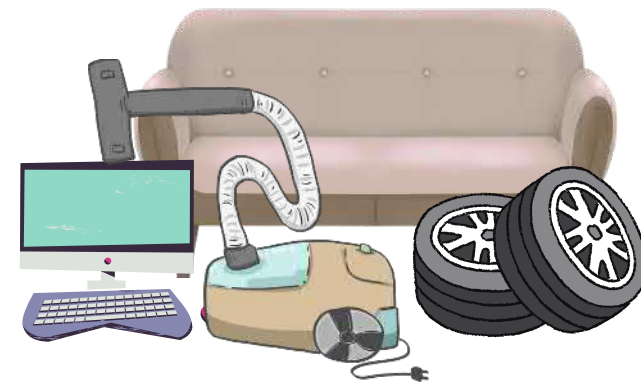
## What can I do with my bulk/large waste?

If your items are in good condition, consider:

- **offering them to neighbors** on your local Buy Nothing group.
- **donating** them to your local thrift store.

If not, you can drop it off at a **transfer station**.

- North Station - 1350 North 34th Street, Seattle 98103
- South Station- 130 South Kenyon Street, Seattle 98108



If you cannot bring your bulk waste to a transfer station, please **contact your Property Manager** to arrange a special pickup.