



# The 3 Bin Service: Frequently Asked Questions

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## What's changing?

Most residents currently have 2 bins at each household, a dark green rubbish bin and a yellow lid recycling bin. The Shire of Capel is introducing a third bin, an organics bin for residents to use making the collection service a 3 Bin Service.

## What are the 3 Bins?

Residents will now have 3 Bins

- Organics Bin, the new bin (**bright green lid**) – for collection of organic waste including garden waste and all food waste. To be collected weekly.
- Recycling Bin (**yellow lid**) – for collection of recyclable materials including paper, glass, cans, boxes. To be collected fortnightly, as previously
- Rubbish Bin, current rubbish bin (**red lid** or **current dark green lid**) – for all other waste that is not organic or recyclable including plastic bags, broken toys, meat trays, nappies. To be collected fortnightly.

## When will the Organics bin be delivered and when will the collection start?

Organics bins will start being delivered on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2013. It will take 2-3 weeks for all of the bins to be delivered.

The first collection will start on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2013.

## Will the new 3 Bin Service cost more than we currently pay?

The new 3 bin system will cost about the same as the previous cost of only two bins. This means you will be paying a similar amount to last year, with the added bonus of a new organics bin service.

## How often will each bin be collected?

The Organics Bin (**bright green lid**) – weekly

The Recycling Bin (**yellow lid**) – fortnightly

The Rubbish Bin (**red lid** or **current dark green lid**) – fortnightly

## **Why will I have an Organics Bin?**

Organics bins have been introduced to meet obligations from the State Waste Authority and the Federal Government to reduce carbon emissions. If these targets are not met, taxes on landfill will increase and those taxes will cause the cost of waste collection and disposal to rise significantly. By diverting what we can from landfill now we are making considerable savings for the future. The Western Australian State Government recycling targets are 30% of waste recycled by 2015 and 50% recycled by 2020. Current recycling rates in Capel are 23% and with the introduction of the organics bin we can expect the rate of recycling to increase to around 50%. There are many environmental benefits of the organics bin. Organic waste in landfills produces methane and leachate, a noxious liquid, so it is environmentally responsible to prevent organic waste from going to landfill. The compost produced from the organics collection will be used to add nutrients to soil, reducing the need for synthetic fertilisers.

## **How do we know people actually wanted the new 3 bin Service?**

A survey of residents in April 2011 revealed 71% of respondents would support the introduction of a 3 Bin Service with an organics bin.

## **What can I put in the Organics bin?**

The average rubbish bin in Capel contains 48% organic waste. That means almost half of what you throw out can be put in your organics bin. All food waste, including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, bones, dairy products, eggshells, bread, pasta, cereals, tea bags, coffee grinds, and table scraps can be added. Garden waste accepted includes lawn clippings, garden prunings, leaves, weeds and flowers. Even animal droppings and hair can be included.

## **How can I wrap and dispose of organic waste into the organics bin?**

Each household will receive a free roll of 52 'biodegradable' disposal bags when the organics bin is delivered. The bags can be used to collect organic waste from the household and then disposed of in the bin. Additional rolls of 'biodegradable' bags will be available for residents at the Shire of Capel, Boyanup, Dalyellup and Capel libraries. Food scraps and other organics waste can also be wrapped in newspaper or paper bags in placed in the bin. You don't have to wrap the organic waste, you may choose to place it directly in the bin, though we recommend hosing out your bin after it is collected if it begins to smell.

## **Can I use ordinary plastic bags in my organics bin?**

No. Please don't use plastic bags in the organics bin as they will contaminate the organic bin compost. Plastic bags can only be disposed of in the rubbish bin.

## **I'm worried we will have too much rubbish and won't be able to fit it in our rubbish bin if it is collected fortnightly instead of weekly.**

We know that up to 50% of the waste that people dispose of in their rubbish bins is organic waste. Once you begin to remove the organics waste and the recyclable materials from your waste you will be left with mainly plastic wrapping and packaging, plastic bags, nappies, foam containers, broken crockery and plastics. A lot of this type of waste is easily compactable in your rubbish bin and you will find that your bin is half as empty as it used to be. Another tip is to use smaller rubbish bags which allow you to remove as much air as possible before placing them in the rubbish bin

## **What about nappy disposal and the smell and hazard of having used nappies in a bin for two weeks?**

We have spent some time considering the problem of nappy disposal with a fortnightly rubbish collection. Please find a link to our separate fact sheet on [Nappies and the new 3 bin service](#).

## **Will my organics bin or rubbish bin smell?**

Wrapping food scraps in newspaper or using paper bags helps reduce smells or you can use the compostable biodegradable bags supplied by the Shire. You can also freeze particularly odorous food scraps, like seafood, and put them in the organics bin the night before collection.

## **Why do some bins have a red lid?**

The red lid bin is for general rubbish bins. Most people in the Shire of Capel have an existing dark green rubbish bin that will continue to be used for rubbish. If the bin lid is broken or if the bin needs to be replaced, it will be replaced with a red lid bin which is in accordance with the Australian Standard for bin colours. A rubbish bin with a red lid will also be delivered to new residences.

## **What will happen to the waste in the organics bin?**

The waste in the organics bin will be taken to a new regional composting site at Banksia Road, Dardanup. The organics will be checked for contamination and then undergo a combination of static and forced air composting processes. The compost produced will be used in parks and gardens or for rehabilitating land. The potential uses for the compost will be determined by contamination levels.

### **Will there be changes to collection days?**

The will be no changes to your current collection day. A new recycling calendar, modified to accommodate the new service, will be delivered with your new organics bin. Organics will be collected weekly, while rubbish and recycling will be collected fortnightly. This will ensure there are never more than two bins on your verge at the same time. That means one week you will place the rubbish bin and organics bin on the kerb for collection. The next week you will place the recycling bin and the organics bin on the kerb for collection.

### **What about holiday homes where there aren't permanent residents who can put out the bins each week?**

The current system using two bins requires bins to be placed on the kerb for fortnightly and weekly collections. Therefore the current arrangements holiday home owners have in place should be sufficient as long as caretakers and holiday makers are educated about which bins are collected each week. The Shire will be able to provide on request, additional educational pamphlets and calendars explaining the collection service for holiday makers and caretakers.

### **I have my own compost/worm farm and I don't need an organics bin**

The organics bin will complement your compost heap as it can take the things that your compost heap can't, like weed seeds, excess lawn clippings and leaves, meat, bones and dairy products. Compost heaps need the right blend of 'green' and 'brown' materials so if you've got excess of one type, you can add it to the organics bin, knowing that it will still be composted. Worms can be fussy eaters and often do not like onions, citrus, eggshells and potato peels. You can put the things they don't like in the organics bin.