

New rules on what can go in the green lid bins

Changes have been made to what items residents can and cannot place in the green lid bins, also known as FOGO – food organics and garden organics bins.

Previously, items such as paper towel, cardboard, bamboo utensils, timber offcuts and tea bags were permitted in the green lid bins, however, changes implemented by the EPA NSW (Environmental Protection Authority) mean these items now must go in either the red or yellow lid bins.

Food and garden waste are now the only items permitted in the green lid bins.

Gregadoo Waste Management Centre Facilities Manager Andrea Baldwin says Council understands the changes may be confusing, but they are necessary to create quality compost from the organic waste material.

“Items such as cardboard, paper, timber offcuts and teabags were previously able to go in the green lid bins, but due to the EPA’s findings these items were contaminating the compost made from the FOGO waste, they must now go in the other bins provided,” Ms Baldwin said.

‘To make it easier for our community, remember to keep food scraps, peelings, expired food and your meal leftovers, place these in your kitchen caddy and when the container is full, tie the compostable bag and place in your green lid bin, you can still add in your garden waste too.

“We understand this change may initially be confusing for residents who have developed habits based on what they were told when the FOGO bin system was introduced, however we must adapt these habits to ensure the compost that is created from the FOGO waste is organic.

“The changes are effective now, which means residents are asked to start sorting their household waste accordingly.

A reminder that compostable liners supplied by Council are the only bags permitted in the green lid bins.

A new roll is delivered to every household in the Local Government Area each year. If you are in need of more liners, or need a new kitchen caddy, visit the Customer Service desk at the Wagga Wagga Civic Centre.

For more information visit our website wagga.nsw.gov.au/waste

Waste sorting advice:

Items permitted in the green lid bin:

- Fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products, baked goods
- Loose tea leaves and coffee grounds

- Shellfish shells, eggshells and bones
- Garden waste – tree and grass clippings
- Small amounts of soil, fallen leaves

Items no longer permitted in the green lid bin should go in:

- Cardboard and paper that is clean goes in the yellow lid bin
- Cardboard and paper that is soiled with food and oil goes in the red lid bin
- Single-use utensils go in the red lid bin (unless recyclable)
- Pet waste, kitty litter, fur, hair, feathers and vacuum cleaner dust go in the red lid bin
- Tea bags go in the red lid bin (loose tea leaves can go in the green lid bin)
- Treated timber offcuts go in the red lid bin in small amounts (large amounts must be taken to a waste management centre)

If you're unsure which bin an item should go in visit our A – Z Guide
wagga.nsw.gov.au/a-zguide

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

What: Learn about the changes to what items can and cannot go in the green lid bins.

When: Wednesday 12 March, 10am

Who: Gregadoo Waste Management Centre Facilities Manager Andrea Baldwin

Where: Wagga Wagga Civic Centre, outside between lower library entrance and Woolundry Lagoon.

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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