

Important information regarding introduction of the organic waste bin

Why is the organic waste bin programme being introduced?

The German Circular Economy Act (*Kreislaufwirtschaftsgesetz* [KrWG]) obligates the City of Regensburg to implement separate collection of all organic wastes. The city is introducing the organic waste bin in order to implement this obligation. The city will be collecting food waste and kitchen waste from households with these new waste bins.

Green waste, lawn cuttings or garden waste must still be disposed of at green waste collection points.

Due to the separate collection of food waste and kitchen waste, energy (biogas) will be generated and plant nutrients will be recovered as a result. This relieves the burden on the environment, provides an important contribution towards the energy transition and is therefore ecologically meaningful.

How will the organic waste collection be organised?

For reasons of space and cost, organic waste will be collected by means of a “bring system” starting in October of 2017. Brown 240-litre containers will be available at a maximum 2,100 locations at public places and in housing areas. Organic waste must be brought to the containers. The content of organic waste bins will be processed into biogas in a fermentation plant, and the fermentation residue will be re-composted.

Emptying + cleaning

The organic waste bins will be emptied every week by the City of Regensburg waste collection service. There is no full service for containers in housing areas: these must either be accessible for the vehicle or made available. The containers will be cleaned by the City of Regensburg up to three times per year.

Handling

“Starter kits” will be distributed to facilitate collection. These kits consist of a 7-litre bin with a lid and biodegradable plastic bags for collection of organic waste in the household and transport to the organic waste bin. For example, food waste and kitchen waste must be placed in compostable plastic bags, compostable paper bags or wrapped in newspaper for this purpose. In this way the organic waste bin also remains clean. The biodegradable bags - regardless of whether made of plastic or paper - must have this symbol:



The following will be collected

From the refrigerator	When cooking	From plates and cups
- Spoiled and mouldy foodstuffs	- Solid cooking fats	- Meat and cold meat leftovers as well as bones (cooked)
- Spoiled dairy products	- Vegetable and fruit peelings	- Coffee filters and teabags
- Wilted or rotten vegetables	- Eggshells	- Cooked and uncooked leftovers
- Expired, unpacked foodstuffs	- Paper towels	- Bread and pastry leftovers
	- Meat and bone remains (only cooked)	

The following do not belong in the organic waste bin

X Raw meat	X Cigarette butts	X Charcoal ash
X Nappies	X Vacuum cleaner bags	X Packaging waste
X Dog and cat excrement	X Treated wood	X Lawn cuttings
X Wood ash	X Green waste	X Residual waste

Garden composting + green waste

Green waste will be collected as always at the green waste collection points and transported to a composting plant. Composting in one's own garden is still possible. However, considerable amounts of food waste and kitchen waste are not suitable for garden composting. That is why the collection of food waste and kitchen waste in the organic waste bin is a supplement to self-composting.

Further questions

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