

Best Practice Guide for Door to Door Brown Bin Education in Ireland



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1. Introduction

This is a best practice guide for door to door education of householders on how to use a brown bin collection service.

The guide can be used by a waste collection company or by a local authority as part of an education programme.

It is based mainly on the experiences of the three brown bin advisors (Margaret Dunleavy, David McGovern and Rachel Finan) who conducted the national pilot of the brown bin advisors programme in Sligo city from July 2014 to March 2015. During the pilot an estimated 3,000 face to face interviews with householders were conducted.

It is recommended that if a local authority is going to do an education programme that it is conducted in partnership with all the local waste collectors. It is important that all the waste collectors give a full commitment to the programme as without it, the programme will not be successful.

This report contains the following sections:

- Planning
- Preparation in advance of going door to door
- Face to face interviews
- Problems encountered by the Sligo team
- Advice for waste collectors

There is an appendix which contains templates with recommended resources.

Key Recommendations

- Develop constructive partnership and effective communications with all key stakeholders – e.g. local authorities, waste collectors, processors (compost/biogas plants) and any third party service delivery company.
- Establish priority goals early in the programme.
- Maximise the use of available resources.
- Be flexible and willing to tweak / change the programme during the project.

1.1 Planning

Within any household food waste recycling management system there are four key stakeholders namely, local authorities, waste collection companies, the organic recyclers (composters) and the final consumer e.g. farmers. Within the current industry framework in Ireland, each of these has distinct needs, requirements or motivations, some of which are required by law, as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Examples of the requirements and needs of different stakeholders

	Legal Requirement / Responsibility		Additional "targets"	
Local Authority	Enforcement of Brown Bin Regulations		Improving local environmental performance	Resident satisfaction
Waste Collector	Provision of Brown Bin Service	Service Delivery	Maximising tonnage, low contamination	Customer satisfaction
Processors	Meeting Waste, Environmental and Animal Health permit requirements		Maximising tonnage	Minimising contamination to ensure high quality compost/digestate
User of Compost/ Digestate (farmers, public, horticulture)	Soil protection		Improved soil quality	

Each of these stakeholders has, directly or indirectly, an interest in the way the consumer (public) interacts with their brown bin collection service. As such the focus and priorities of the consumer education programme will to a greater or lesser extent be influenced by those resourcing it.

It is essential that from the start the views of all of these stakeholders are sought and included to avoid creating a new problem by solving a different one. For example, the potential tonnage and legal benefits of a local authority campaign to enforce brown bin usage could result in increased tonnage with higher contamination.

As well as talking to those in Table 1 above, it may be worth speaking with other organisations within the local recycling system, e.g. companies accepting other materials such as paper, plastics etc., to ascertain if they are receiving material un/intentionally containing food waste such as full yoghurt pots.

1.2 Resource Planning

Communication and in particular door to door education campaigns can be very resource intensive so it is imperative to maximise the use and impact of the resources available. As such resource planning is essential. Areas to consider within this are:

- Determine the budget and resource availability.
- Invest time, and if necessary, resources, in understanding the problems that need to be addressed. For example, if tonnage is low for a particular area it is useful to know if that is because people are not using the brown bin at all or if they are only recycling certain types of food waste. Combined use of participation surveys and waste characterisation analyses can be extremely useful in providing such information.
- Invest time in understanding the precise nature of the areas where the campaign will be in place. Seek all sources of local information (walking the area, residents groups, waste collection crews, Council officers, Councillors, local shops etc).
- Speak with shop owners who specialise in foreign food, non-national community groups etc, and leave information with them e.g. Polish Supermarkets. Remember some people, for various reasons, may genuinely not be able to manage to segregate their waste.
- Create detailed mapping of areas identified for door to door initiatives.
- Prepare an 'interview form/check list' of items which need to be recorded e.g. list of houses, date visited, did you talk to householders, comments made etc (see example in Appendix 3.2).
- Use freely available resources e.g. brownbin.ie to develop any communication and education tools.
- Prepare a calling card to leave at houses which don't answer the door (example in Appendix 3.1).
- Be aware of other local and national issues which may be raised by those you are interviewing.
- Combine the use of door to door with more central community events e.g. compost give aways.
- Allow ample time for training, particularly if the people going door to door are new to the waste industry.

1.3 Education and other useful tools

As part of a door to door education campaign it is always helpful to have information and other tools to be able to leave with the householder. Examples include:

- Information leaflets
 - Dos and don'ts for the brown bin
 - How to use your brown bin
 - Collection calendars
 - Enforcement letter
- Stickers for bins
- Rolls of certified compostable caddy liners
- A calling card to leave at houses which don't answer the door (example in Appendix 3.1)

In addition, those going door to door may find it very helpful to have pictorial guides illustrating what can go in each bin, simple information about the brown bin regulations and information to discourage uncontrolled burning of household waste.

If you are planning on distributing any information or tools, be sure that these are designed and ordered well before the door to door campaign is due to commence.

1.4 Training

Comprehensive training must be given to those going door to door before the campaign begins. This should include:

- Comprehensive knowledge of the Household Food Waste and Biowaste legislation and any relevant local by-laws.
Note: An Enforcement Guide on the Food Waste Regulations has been provided to Waste Enforcement personnel within each local authority.
- The local waste collectors, their services and their pricing. Contact information for the collectors is also useful to know.
- What goes into each of the three bins.
- Health and safety considerations for door to door campaigns.

Given the direct contact nature of door to door education, role play is an essential part of training. A weekly team meeting is also very important to share experiences and updates.

Additionally and in particular for those new to the waste industry, visits to transfer stations and local composting facilities will be particularly helpful and will allow people to see and hear about what people are putting in the bins. This will help in gaining an insight as to the reasons for the campaign as well as being a motivating factor.

Everyone who goes door to door needs to be educated in the programme's aim, i.e. if the local authority is doing an enforcement education or a third party is doing a quality / quantity programme then those who collect the bins need to know a) it is happening and b) what the messages are. The fact is those doing the collection should be trained in the legal requirements of the householders (their customers) in terms of having and using a brown bin correctly.

1.5 Face to face interviews

The door to door session will involve firstly providing information on the brown bin system and then also conducting an interview with the householder to determine their current waste management practices and issues.

It is important that time is spent in preparing a door to door education programme. It is key that the Local Authorities and waste collectors work in partnership. If problems are reported by residents to the Local Authority, they should have a channel of reporting these to the relevant waste collector.

- Carry out mock presentations / role play to each other on a weekly basis. During these you can run through scenarios that were thrown at you at the door. This exercise is very worthwhile because it allows each person to learn from each other.
- A weekly team meeting is very important to share experiences and updates.
- Aim to visit 100 houses per person per week and set a target for the percentage of face to face contact made; i.e. must speak to the residents of 70% of occupied houses in the area.
- Have a map of the area. The area should be clearly divided up so that each person knows who is working in what exact area.
- Door to door interviews should be carried out by a minimum of two people in an area. This is for safety reasons¹.
- Carry identification and a mobile phone (with emergency contact numbers).

¹ This is not two people per household but per area to ensure close proximity to each other for safety reasons.

- Contact the team leader by phone or text before starting the first interview and immediately after the last interview. For added security, there is an 'App' you can download onto a smart phone for emergencies. You press on the screen and a number of your colleagues are informed you are in distress and are provided with your location.
- It is better to carry out door to door education in the spring/summer time as there are longer evenings. People are less inclined to answer the door in the winter when it is dark.
- The first day walking around your area will give you a good feel of the area and will help you to determine the most appropriate time of day to call. Some estates are commuter estates and you will only get people in between 6pm and 8pm therefore tailor your call out times to the nature of the estate.
- Start going to door to door from 11am onwards - depending on area location and the characteristics of the population (e.g. are there older people and young family in the area that will be home around lunch time?).
- In the summer time finish up no later than 8pm and no later than 6pm on dark winter evenings.
- You may need to call back to a house two or three times to try and get someone in.
- You typically have to knock twice on a door in the same day before you get an answer.
- If no answer, leave a calling card plus instruction leaflet on what goes into the three bins (see example in Appendix 3.5).
- Introduce yourself, be sympathetic to people if it's a bad time to call, listen to people if they want to give out about something and then deliver your presentation.
- Use icons on what can go into each three types of bins – it's a very good tool to explain on how to use the brown bin, recycling bin and residual/waste bin. Know what happens to each of the waste streams collected. Highlight any potential cost savings for segregating the waste.
- You will be able to tailor your response on the price of the brown bin to suit the audience. You can explain the 'Pay by Weight' system and explain how householder could save money.
- Know the price of compostable bags and the shops in the area that provide them.
- Highlight that backyard burning is not allowed as well as the health and environmental impacts of backyard burning.
- Highlight that dumping of waste is illegal.
- Provide information on the waste enforcement actions that could occur.
- Be prepared for questions on relevant topical issues e.g. Irish Water.
- From the experiences in the Sligo trial there was about 1-2% bad interviews with householders. However, most people would change their attitude / behaviour and give a positive reaction when they were given a free kitchen caddy and a roll of compostable bags.

2. Experiences from Sligo

2.1 Background to national brown bin awareness Pilot in Sligo

The National Brown Bin Pilot involved providing households with different educational packages and tools and evaluating how effective each was.

The City was divided as follows:

Education/ Tools	Area A	Area B	Area C
Door to Door	Spoke with 70% of occupied households	Spoke with 33% of occupied households	Spoke with 70% of occupied households
Leaflets	100% mail drop of educational material	100% mail drop of educational material	100% mail drop of educational material
Tools	Solid 7L Caddies plus compostable bags provided	No Caddies No compostable bags provided	Vented 7L caddies plus compostable bags provided

There are two main collectors operating in the City. One collector provides a 120 litre wheeled bin the other collector provides a 25 litre caddy.

The national brown bin pilot in Sligo involved providing some householders with the following education and tools:

- Teaser leaflet delivered by a leaflet dropping company a few weeks before door to door education commenced.
- 7 litre kitchen caddy with a sticker on it indicating what types of food wastes can go into it. A roll of compostable bags was provided as well as an instruction leaflet on how to use the brown bin service.
- Door to door education by the Waste Management Advisors who would provide additional leaflets and in some cases another roll of compostable bags.

In conjunction the following was also employed;

- Compost giveaway event was a very useful tool for engaging the general public in seeing the benefits of segregating bio waste and food waste only.
- Publications in local newspapers.
- Radio interviews.
- Participation in Tidy Towns waste expo event.

2.2 Problems Encountered in the Pilot in Sligo City

This section outlines the problems encountered by the waste management advisors in the pilot programme in Sligo City.

Problems reported by residents

- Householders say they have no food waste; typically older people would give this answer.
- Elderly people complained that the 25 litre bin is too heavy and needs wheels.
- Size of food waste bin- the 120 litre bin is too big and the 25 litre is too small.
- Delay in provision of bins.
- Perceived high cost of waste collection service and lack of incentivisation for the brown bin.
- Perception that collectors were co-mingling the segregated waste.

Problems experienced or noted by Waste Management Advisors during door-to-door interviews

- Some people on a 'food waste only' brown bin collection not aware of options for managing their garden waste.
- Some people say they feed food waste to dogs.
- You have to highlight you can't burn food waste or feed food waste to pigs or other animals used in the food chain.
- It is difficult going door to door with houses that have doors opening onto the footpath in streets – it's noisy and difficult to have a conversation.
- Street houses are not always identified by a number – so it takes longer compared to estates where almost every house is identified by a number.
- Where the kitchen caddy was dropped at people's door without any door-to-door education, some would not touch it, as they did not know what it was for. This situation occurred in quite a low number of households.
- Some people, not aware that plate scrapings, potato peelings and bones are food waste.
- You have to emphasise to householders that 'raw meats' can go into the brown bin.
- Highlight that you can't put cat litter or dog poo in the brown bin, instead put it into the residual/waste bin.
- Waste collectors not providing brown bins and people chasing up waste companies looking for them. In general people were advised to contact their local authority who will then contact the waste collector to speed up the process.
- Waste collectors are blaming the County Council for price increases.
- Incorrect information on food waste collection provided by the waste collectors in some instances.
- People ring a waste collector and are being told they are outside the designated area and don't need the brown bin.
- It is difficult to get people to answer the door during the day.

Problems noted during waste characterisation (Pre Awareness Campaign):

- High percentage of kitchen towel, napkins and tissue were found in the residual bin.
- High percentage of food waste in landfill bin (lack of incentivisation).
- Lot of garden waste in landfill bin of collector providing 25 litre caddy.
- Higher level of contamination in the 120 litre bin.

2.3 Common Questions you could be asked during door-to-door interviews

Q. Do I have to put my food waste into a brown bin?

A. Yes.

Q. Tinfoil contaminated with food – which bin does it go into?

A. The residual bin.

Q. Which bin can clothes go into?

A. A clothes bank at a civic amenity centre

Q. Can you put raw food into the brown bin?

A. Yes.

Q. I only produce a small amount of food waste; can I put it in the general waste bin?

A. No, as food waste to landfill is banned. By putting it in the brown bin, it will be composted and a useful product will be produced.

Q. Where can more compostable bags be purchased and what price?

A. You can get them in your local supermarket.

Q. We don't have any food waste, I don't need a brown bin.

A. You will need a brown bin, as you will generate food waste when you have dinner parties/ kid parties and other functions.

Q. How much will the brown bin cost?

A. Contact your waste collector. But pay by weight is coming and your brown bin and recycling bin will be cheaper than the general waste bin.

2.4 Advice for Waste Collectors

A brown bin collection service needs a 100% commitment from the waste collector in order for any awareness programme to be successful.

If education is conducted by a Local Authority, there should be regular meetings with the waste collection companies operating in the area to ensure the education provided reflects the service that will be provided by the waste collector.

To facilitate better uptake of the brown bin service, the following points should be borne in mind by the waste collector when establishing and maintaining a brown bin collection service:

- Use good labels for the three bins. Do not label the brown bin the 'compost bin' as this is confusing. Householders think the bin is for home composting and hold onto it for months. Also they won't put raw meats into it.
- The sticker on the caddy is vital as it tells people what the caddy is for and what to put into it. Some people are confusing the 7 litre indoor kitchen caddy as the bin that should be presented for collection. The sticker on the kitchen caddy should also state that it is not for collection.
- Ensure that people on a food waste only collection have the option of getting additional bin for food waste if their existing brown bin is not sufficient. All waste collection staff should be consistent with the message they give to their customers otherwise confusion and complaints arise.
- The size, location and occupancy of a dwelling can influence the amount of food waste presented. A fortnightly collection of a 25 litre caddy may not be the solution for all households. Collectors should consider other options such as increased frequency of collection, provision of additional bins, bags for garden waste etc. Collectors providing a food waste only collection should also provide a separate garden waste collection. The brown bin should not be the same colour as the general waste bin as this confuses the householder, particularly when the bins are collected on the same day.
- Ensure prompt delivery of bins especially if running a promotional or awareness event. In order to be efficient and reduce the number of complaints, collectors should aim to provide a brown bin to all their customers in an area at the same time via a blanket drop of brown bins as opposed to delivering bins as requested on an individual basis.
- Use the www.brownbins.ie resources in order to deliver a consistent message.
- Introduce a regime for inspecting and rejecting contaminated bins. Rejection stickers / tags should be placed on contaminated bins and the reason for rejecting the bin identified on the label / tag.

3. Appendix

3.1 Sligo County Council Calling Card Example

Sligo County Council		Waste Management Bye-Laws 2013
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I called to you again today to provide you with an opportunity to discuss the changeover from the old waste collection system to the new 3 bin system as contained in the Sligo County Council Waste Management Bye-Laws 2013.

URGENT - Action Required

Under the new Bye Laws you are obligated to manage your household waste as follows:-

- Register with a permitted waste collector for the provision of 3 waste receptacles to ensure waste is segregated into the following 3 types:-
(i) Foodwaste (ii) Recycling (iii) General Waste
- Alternatively you can bring your household waste to a Civic Amenity site/Transfer Station for disposal. Receipts must be maintained for a minimum of 3 years for this option of waste disposal.

Please contact me on mobile 087 2077979 or landline (071) 9111465 to confirm if you are already operating in compliance with the above or alternatively to highlight any difficulty you may be having in trying to do so.

Name _____ Date _____

3.2 Generic Calling Card Template

INSERT LOGO AND NAME	Household Food Waste and Biowaste Regulations 2015
----------------------	--

I called to you today to provide you an opportunity to discuss the changeover from the old waste collection system to the new three bin system as required by the European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations 2015.

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

Under the Regulations you are obligated to segregate food waste and use a brown bin collection service by your waste collector.

You are required to manage your household waste as follows;

Segregate your waste into at least,

- Foodwaste and biowaste, (ii) recyclables (iii) residual

Ensure that these three waste streams are dealt with by any combination of the following three methods:

- Collected by an authorised waste collector.
- Brought, by you, to an authorised facility (Civic Amenity Site, Transfer Station, landfill, composting or anaerobic digestion facility (you must retain receipts provided to you from these facilities)
- Deal with the waste on the site on which it was produced by home composting

Please contact me on my mobile xxxxxxxxxx to confirm if you are already operating in compliance with the above or alternatively to highlight any difficulty you may be having in trying to do so.

Name & Date

3.3 Door to Door Interview Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact No: _____

No. Occupants in Household:

How are you disposing of your waste?

☐

WASTE COLLECTOR 1

☐

WASTE COLECTOR 2

☐

TRANSFER STATION/CIVIC AMENITY SITE

☐

OTHER

	Yes	No	N/A
Are you availing of a 3-bin kerbside collection system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If 'NO' then are they awaiting brown bin delivery or have yet to order?

Are you a Bin-Sharing Customer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you use a home composter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Awareness Talk provided to householder	Yes	No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.4 Completion of Estate Form Template

Waste Advisor: _____

Date: _____

Item:	Comment:
Name of Estate:	
Number of HH assigned (from office)	
Number of actual HH on estate/road:	
Number of vacant properties:	
Number of HH spoken to:	
Number of HH awaiting Brown bin (if householder has ordered)	Waste Collector Name: _____ Waste Collector Name _____
Number of HH actually using the brown bin:	
Total Number of Occupants in Estate:	
Number of households availing of kerbside collection:	
Number of households not availing of kerbside collection but disposing of waste at Civic Amenity Sites/ Transfer Station:	
Number of Bin Sharing Households:	
Details of Bin Sharing Households (i.e. House No's):	
Number of Holiday Homes:	
Details of Holiday Home Occupants:	
General Feedback & Types of Questions being asked:	
Number of Awkward/Negative Households and Feedback on Same:	
AOB that you feel necessary to highlight	

3.5 Summary Report of 7 Day Activities

Report to be submitted at weekly in-house meetings

Description	Formula	Result
Start date to finish date (these will usually be meeting dates)		
Number of houses in your area that you examined (including vacant) in last 7 days	X	
Number of vacant houses	Y	
Number of occupied houses (min target of 100)	X-Y	
Number of houses where you spoke with occupants (min target of 70)	Z	
Percentage of occupied houses that you spoke with	$(Z/X-Y * 100) \%$	

3.6 What goes into the three bins – example literature

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO RECYCLE?

Tips for your Organic Waste Collection Bin

All food and garden waste can be collected in this new waste collection stream for organic waste. To reduce odour problems, biodegradable bags are available or you can simply wrap organic items in old newspapers before placing them in the brown bin. Further tips on food waste prevention can be viewed on www.foodwaste.ie Items for placing in the organic waste bin include:

- ✓ Garden waste i.e. grass cuttings, hedge clippings etc
- ✓ Food scraps (including cooked/uncooked meat, fish & poultry)
- ✓ Shellfish & bones
- ✓ Eggs, Egg Shells & Egg Boxes,
- ✓ Dairy Products (Cheese, Yoghurt, etc)
- ✓ Soups & Sauces
- ✓ Table & Plate Scrappings
- ✓ Fruit, Vegetables, Breads, Cereals, Pasta, Dough & Rice
- ✓ Teabags, Coffee Grinds & Paper Filters
- ✓ Calves, Biscuits, Food Soiled Napkins & Paper Towels
- ✓ Food Soiled Paper Yoghurt, etc)
- ✓ Wet Cardboard & Paper (No Plastic)

In rural areas, where people have bigger gardens and areas where compost can be used, the incorporation of a garden composting unit is an excellent way to get rid of garden waste, eggs, egg shells/boxes, fruit, vegetables, teabags & coffee grinds.

Note: No plastic, dairy or meat products should go into a garden compost.

Tips for your Dry Recyclable Collection Bin

Keep all recyclables clean. Remember to wash and squash before popping them into your recycle bin. This helps you get more into your recycle bin giving you value for money while also helping the contractors to recycle more. Items for your recycling bin include:

Aluminium:

- ✓ Food Tins
- ✓ Aluminium Drink Cans
- ✓ Lids from glass sauce jars
- ✓ Biscuit tins
- ✓ Clean tin foil and clean takeaway food trays

Plastic:

- ✓ Shampoo & Shower Gel Bottles
- ✓ Window Cleaner Bottles
- ✓ Washing up Liquid Bottles
- ✓ Detergent & Fabric Softener Bottles
- ✓ Yoghurt Drink Bottles
- ✓ Clean Plastic Wrap, like that found around toilet paper & kitchen towels.
- ✓ Lids removed from plastic & glass bottles
- ✓ Plastic Bags
- ✓ Clean Plastic Food Containers

Tetra Pak:

- ✓ Milk Cartons
- ✓ Juice Cartons
- ✓ Soup Cartons

Paper & Cardboard:

- ✓ Phone Books
- ✓ Catalogues
- ✓ Tissue Boxes
- ✓ Labels & Tags from new clothes
- ✓ Envelopes
- ✓ Printing paper

Tips for your Landfill Bin:

Recycling may seem like a tedious hassle, but it is in all our interests to reduce, reuse and recycle where possible and avoid placing incorrect items in the landfill bin. Putting these new habits in place now will reduce your costs of waste disposal as the charges placed on landfill of waste are rising substantially each year. With population growth on the increase, so too is the need for landfill space, therefore, costs are inevitably going to keep rising for disposal of this type of waste.

The only waste to be placed in this segregation stream is what cannot be placed in the other streams so think twice before you throw out!

This bin should only contain:

- ✓ Non-Recyclable waste
- ✓ Non-Compostable waste
- ✓ Non-Hazardous waste
- ✓ Exclude construction or demolition waste

Examples:

- ✓ Ashes, Nappies, Dirty Plastic
- ✓ Dirty Tin Foil, Sanitary Items,
- ✓ Blades, Toothpaste Tubes,
- ✓ Non-CFL Light Bulbs
- ✓ Crisp Packets,
- ✓ Biscuit Wrappers
- ✓ Wax-Paper Wrappings

Green Composting

Ballisodare Composting Facility accepts all bio degradable garden waste (grass clippings, hedge trimmings, trees, leaves etc) – small fees apply. Peat free compost and home composters are also available for purchase.

Bring Banks / Bottle Banks

FREE recycling of:

- ✓ Glass Jars
- ✓ Aluminium Cans
- ✓ Unwanted Clothes
- ✓ Textiles & Shoes
- ✓ Bottles

Bulk Waste/Unwanted Items

Old toys and unwanted furniture items could be given away to charity if they are in good condition or given away online through sites such as www.freetradeireland.ie

www.sligo.ie

Civic Amenity Sites

Segregate waste at home and transport when full to your local Civic Amenity Centre at a reduced rate to kerbside waste collection and for many items even free of charge i.e. old electrical equipment. Household Hazardous Waste is also accepted at Tubbercurry Civic Amenity Site.

Visit www.sligococo.ie, Environmental Services for further details.

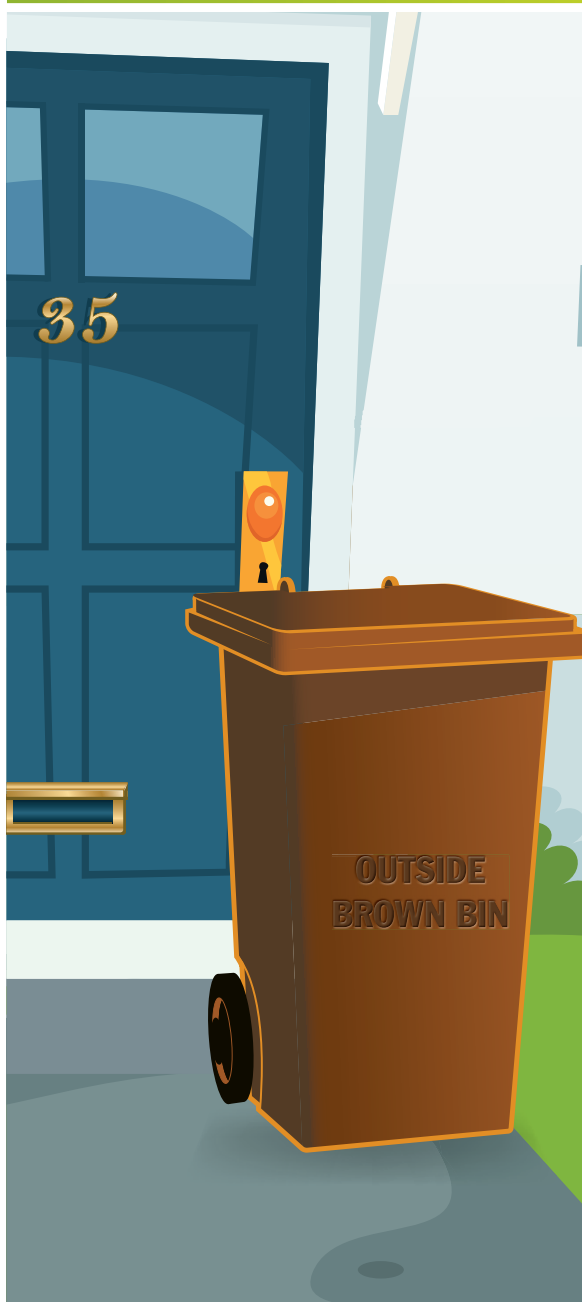
www.sligococo.ie

Environmental Services, Sligo County Council, Unit 9, Cleveragh Business Park, Sligo

Food Waste Recycling

European Union (Household Food Waste and Biowaste) Regulations 2015 require proper recycling of food waste

Local
Authority
or Waste
Collectors
logo goes
here



BROWNbin.ie
Your new Food Waste Recycling Service



What food waste can I recycle?

You can put any of the following materials into your brown bin:

- ✓ **RAW OR COOKED FOOD**
- ✓ **MEAT, POULTRY & FISH, INCLUDING BONES**
- ✓ Leftover food from your plates and dishes
- ✓ Fruit & vegetables
- ✓ Tea bags, coffee grinds & paper filters
- ✓ Breads, cakes & biscuits
- ✓ Rice, pasta & cereals
- ✓ Dairy products (cheese, butter, yoghurt)
- ✓ Soups & sauces
- ✓ Eggs, egg shells & cardboard egg boxes
- ✓ Food soiled paper napkins, paper towels
- ✓ Newspaper (when used for wrapping food waste)
- ✓ Out of date food with packaging removed (no glass/plastic)

Grass clippings and small twigs can also be added to your large brown bin.

NO THANKS!

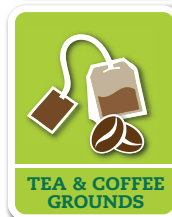
Please **DO NOT** put any of the following materials into your brown bin

- ✗ **Plastic bags/bottles**
- ✗ **Packaging of any sort**
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Glass
- ✗ Stones/soil
- ✗ Metal cans/wire
- ✗ Cardboard
- ✗ Ashes, coal or cinders
- ✗ Pet faeces or litter
- ✗ Cooking oils



EGG SHELLS & PASTA

RAW OR COOKED MEAT, FISH & BONES



TEA & COFFEE GROUNDS



DAIRY



FRUIT & VEGETABLES



BREAD & CAKES



NO GLASS



NO PLASTIC



NO METAL

IF IN DOUBT PHONE AND FIND OUT
contact your waste collection company



How do I use my kitchen caddy?



Compostable Bags /
Paper Bags

Step 1.

ONLY use compostable bags with the seedling logo / paper bags.

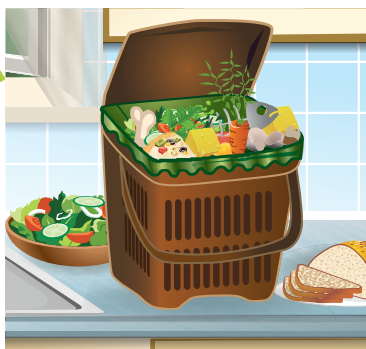


Kitchen Caddy

Step 2.

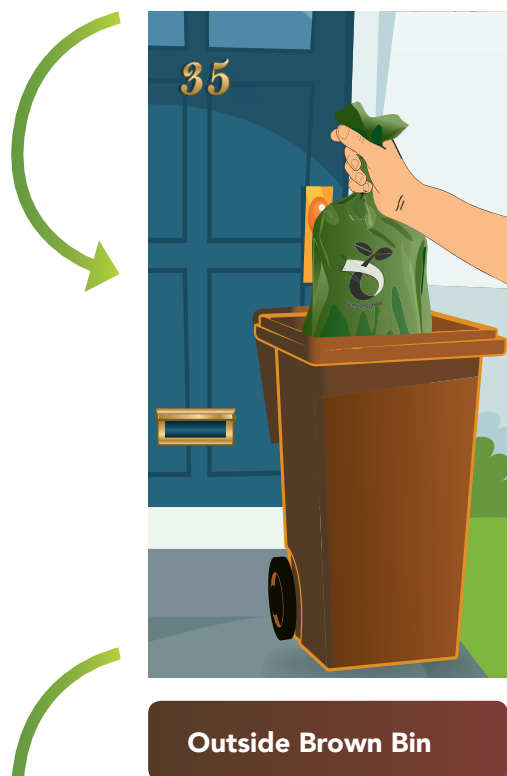
The kitchen caddy is for use in the kitchen.

Not for collection at kerbside



Step 3.

Line your caddy with compostable bags and fill it with food waste



Step 4.

When the kitchen caddy is full, tie the bag and put it into your outside brown bin



Step 5.

Leave your brown bin out every fortnight for collection by your waste collector



Frequently asked questions

I already compost food waste at home, can I still do this?

Yes you can. Your home composting bin can still be used for uncooked vegetables and fruit peelings. However you cannot place raw meat/cooked meats into your home composter.

You can use your brown bin for all types of food waste, **INCLUDING RAW/COOKED FOODS OR MEATS.**

But remember, you cannot place food waste into your general waste bin.

Why should you use the brown bin?

- **It saves money** because you become more aware of the food you waste and is cheaper to use than your waste bin.
- **Recycling food waste is the Law.**
- **It's better for the environment** because you are avoiding sending food waste to a landfill where it produces harmful greenhouse gases.
- **It produces a high quality compost.**

Can I use plastic bin bags in my brown bin?

No. Plastic bags are made from petrochemical plastics that do not break down during composting and contaminate the process. Please remember that if plastic is found in your brown bin, your bin will not be emptied and a contamination tag will be placed on your bin to inform you of this. You may also be liable to an on the spot fine from your local authority.

Will the brown bin cost me more money?

The new brown bin system should not cost more money providing correct segregation of waste is taking place. Under By-laws and National Waste Policy, your waste collector must encourage recycling by offering a lesser charge for collecting your brown bin than your general waste bin.

The most expensive waste stream of all is general waste (landfill waste). There is a Government levy on waste going to landfill, therefore by putting food waste instead into your brown bin, you are avoiding this levy and saving money.

Can I put my food waste into my general waste bin?

You are no longer allowed by Irish law to put food waste into your general waste bin.

If you have any queries contact your waste collector or visit the national information website for more details:

BROWNbin.ie
Your new Food Waste Recycling Service



3.7 Brown Bin Instruction leaflet



Tips For Recycling Food Waste

- Only use the special compostable bags that have the seedling logo to line your caddy.
- Keep your kitchen caddy where it's easily accessible or under your kitchen bench.
- Keep you caddy clean by rinsing with water and wiping with kitchen towel.
- Empty your kitchen caddy every 2-3 days to avoid odours.
- Your food waste is collected and brought to a large composting site where high quality compost is produced which is used in landscaping, in gardens and on agricultural land. It is important that you do not put any glass, metal or plastic into your brown bin as it will make the material more difficult to compost and will lower the quality of the compost produced.
- If you have any queries about the scheme contact your waste collector.

BROWNbin.ie
Your new Food Waste Recycling Service



3.8 List of Further Resources

www.brownbins.ie

This website prepared by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and Cr   provide tools on how to educate householders on segregating food waste. The tools include a short cartoon on what food stuffs should go into the brown bin.

www.recyclemore.ie

This website by REPAK provides information on how to recycle waste. The website provides a range of tools to facilitate recycling, particularly dry recyclables.

www.stopfoodwaste.ie

This website by the Environmental Protection Agency provides information on how to home compost and tips on how to prevent food waste.