

What is “organic waste”?

“Organic waste, also known as compostable materials, is defined as materials that are biodegradable by microorganisms.” Source: [RECYC-QUÉBEC](#)

This broad category includes green waste (leaves, grass, yard waste) as well as both plant and animal leftovers (fruit and vegetable peelings, table scraps, meat, etc.).

Why have an organic waste collection?

Did you know that more than 50% of your waste is made up of organic materials? By collecting and processing them, they can be recycled into quality compost that will enrich agricultural land in dire need of organic matter to prevent soil degradation.

This new collection is another step towards reducing waste and improving the quality of our environment. The success of this collection relies on your participation!

Am I affected by the new collection?

If you have received BRUN’O and Minibac at your home, it means that you must deposit your organic waste in them, as it will be banned from the garbage collection in 2021.

All single-family homes and buildings with 5 units or fewer will have access to the organic waste collection during Phase 1 of the implementation. If you live in a building with 6 units or more, you will receive your bin during Phase 2. Details of this phase will be announced at a later date.

I live in a building with 5 units or fewer. How many BRUN’Os and Minibacs will we get for all of the units?

The number of BRUN’Os for buildings with 2 to 5 units is the same as the number of recycling bins. Each unit will receive a Minibac. These will be located inside the BRUN’Os and should be promptly taken out and given to the residents.

For example, if a 4-unit building has two recycling bins, it will receive 2 BRUN’Os and 4 Minibacs. If after the distribution team has passed by, you notice a discrepancy in the number of bins, please contact us at 450-347-0299.

I compost at home. Do I have to participate?

Yes, because it complements the collection of organic waste. We encourage you to continue composting at home. You can put other organic waste that cannot be composted at home in the brown bin (e.g., meat, bones, soiled cardboard, dairy products, tissues).

It should also be noted that the collection of organic waste will be mandatory. No material accepted with BRUN’O should end up in the garbage, including food and green waste.

What happens if I don't participate in the collection?

Whatever your concerns, you are encouraged to participate in the collection of organic waste at your own pace. Why not start with vegetable peelings and green waste? See the *A Few Useful Tips and Tricks* section for advice.

When does the collection of organic waste begin?

Collection will begin in early February 2021 for single-family homes and buildings with 5 units or fewer. In December, all the 2021 collection calendars with the pickup days in your municipality were made available. In addition, the guide delivered to you in December contains the calendar for your area.

Why does the frequency of the organic waste collection change during the year?

The frequency changes because the quantity of material to be collected increases significantly from spring to fall when there is green waste. This is why collection is every two weeks from December to March and every week from April to November.

Will the addition of this collection have an impact on other collections?

Changes to the various collections were announced in December and appear in the guide distributed at the end of 2020.

Can we put organic waste in plastic bags?

Please don't! BRUN'O is allergic to plastic! All types of plastic bags, including compostable or biodegradable bags, are not allowed in the brown bin. The goal is to produce quality compost, without any plastic particles.

Paper bags or newsprint are good options for wrapping up your table scraps!

What should I do if there are odours, insects, or rodents bothering BRUN'O?

There are various tips and tricks to reduce potential nuisances resulting from the collection of organic waste.

To eliminate odours in the bins, clean them with water and add a few capfuls of bleach, mild detergent, or vinegar to a clean bin.

For Minibac, cover the bottom with newspaper or old paper flyers.

Is the use of paper bags mandatory?

No, it is not mandatory. You can use newsprint or old flyers to wrap up your organic waste. You can also throw out the materials in bulk, but you will need to wash your bin more frequently and you run the risk of having odours or fly larvae.

Why is BRUN'O 240 litres? It seems big to me...

This size makes it possible to meet the needs of certain peak periods in the spring, summer, and fall when garden waste is more abundant. In addition, these bins are more robust, more stable on slopes and in windy conditions, and are known to be more durable and require fewer repairs. They are harder to tip over during high winds and by small animals trying to climb on them and they are easier for collection trucks to lift.

Who is responsible for the collection of organic waste?

As with all waste management services in the Haut-Richelieu region, including garbage and recycling collections, Compo-Haut-Richelieu is also responsible for the collection of organic waste throughout the area.

Where does the collected organic waste go?

The organic waste will be sent to a composting facility until the Regional Composting Centre is built (2021) and operational (2022). On site, your compostable waste is mixed with wood chips that act as a structuring agent. The organic material is then turned over to oxygenate it in order to create a mature, stable, rich, and pathogen-free compost. The composting process can take from 3 to 12 months depending on the moisture content, oxygen level, and outside temperature.

Can I get free compost?

Once the Regional Composting Centre is built and operational, Compo-Haut-Richelieu will organize citizen distribution days to complete the perfect cycle! Citizens will thus be able to benefit from the fruits of their contributions to the collection of organic waste.

The compost produced will be sent to municipalities for their green spaces as well as to local farmers.

I have a food waste disposer. Why should I use BRUN'O?

The use of a food waste disposer is not recommended for several reasons. In addition to consuming electricity and a large quantity of drinking water, the use of a waste disposer complicates treatment processes at wastewater treatment plants.

Furthermore, if your home is connected to a septic system, the use of a food waste disposer overloads the septic tank, requiring more frequent emptying, and can cause the treatment system to clog and thus reduce its lifespan. Moreover, green waste definitely does not go into the food waste disposer. Therefore, the use of BRUN'O is a better option.

Can I put branches in the brown bin?

Only twigs and very small branches, such as hedge clippings, are allowed in small quantities. Large branches must be brought to the ecocentres.

Can I put baby diapers or pet feces in the brown bin?

No, these materials are not accepted as part of this collection.

What happens if I put prohibited materials in the brown bin (e.g., glass bottles, batteries, chlorine)?

The organic waste that is collected is treated to become a quality compost that will be used to improve the soil for local farmers. It is therefore very important that no non-compostable materials be deposited in BRUN'O. Moreover, it is vital that no glass particles and no hazardous waste (e.g., batteries, chlorine...) be found in BRUN'O.

No one wants to take the risk that shards of glass or dangerous products will wind up in a field that may produce the food which will end up on our plates.

Out of respect for farmers and for our fellow citizens, be careful how you feed your BRUN'O.

In addition, the small stickers found on some fruits or vegetables are contaminants and must be systematically removed.

I don't want to use BRUN'O. Can I use it for my garbage or recycling?

No, BRUN'O Lebac can only be used for the collection of compostable materials.

What should I do if BRUN'O is broken?

If your brown bin is broken, complete an online request form as soon as possible. The repair or replacement of the brown bin is free of charge, as long as the breakage is the result of normal use or a manufacturing defect. For example, bins that are stolen, burned, or knocked over by a vehicle will not be reimbursed.

I'm moving. Can I bring BRUN'O?

BRUN'O must stay behind when you leave. He belongs to Compo-Haut-Richelieu and is associated with the address where he was delivered.

However, we understand your distress at saying goodbye and the big hole it will leave in your daily routine. Tell yourself that he will go on to help another family and that he will always keep his legendary smile.

I've just moved in and I don't have a bin. What can I do?

If the former owner or tenant did not leave their bin as expected, please call 450-347-0299 or fill out a request form. We will get in touch with you.

Can we put compostable dishes in the brown bin?

No, because compostable tableware is hard to distinguish from plastic tableware. You can, however, opt for cardboard dishes!



What should I do with BRUN'O if I go on vacation?

Think of BRUN'O if you're going on vacation! Put him out for the pickup prior to your departure, then clean him, and leave him empty until you get back. This way, you'll avoid unpleasant surprises upon your return.

If you forgot to do so before your departure, ask a friend or family member to take care of it for you. You can return the favour when it's their turn!

Will schools also receive a BRUN'O so they can participate in the collection?

We would like to be able to integrate the school community at the beginning of the 2021 school year. Further details will become available during 2021.

Will the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sectors also be able to participate in the collection?

Further details about this will become available during 2021.