

What is FOGO?

FOGO stands for Food Organics Garden Organics and refers to the collection of food scraps and natural material from your garden to create high quality compost.

When will FOGO start in Cottesloe?

FOGO collections commenced on 6 June 2022 for single residential dwellings in Cottesloe, including duplexes, triplexes and most unit complexes with four or less units. Other strata properties will be transitioned to the FOGO three bin system in the future.



How will the new FOGO service work?

Single unit dwellings will retain a three-bin system, but the lime green-lidded GO bin is now a FOGO bin. The FOGO bin will be serviced weekly and the red lid general waste bin will now be serviced fortnightly. The Town has supplied households with a 7-litre kitchen caddy and an initial two rolls of compostable caddy liners to assist with separating food waste in the kitchen. It's easy to FOGO.

What is the difference between GO and FOGO?

GO bins are only used for organic materials found in your garden.



FOGO bins can accept the same materials as GO bins, with the addition of your food scraps.



Will the FOGO bin cost me more?

There will be no additional costs to residents for the standard three bin FOGO service.



Will bin sizes change?

Bin sizes will remain the same: a 240L lime green lid FOGO bin, a 240L yellow lid recycling bin and a 120L red lid general waste bin.

Will Bin collection days change?

Your weekly collection day will stay the same. The frequency the bins are collected will change. The FOGO bin will be collected weekly, and the recycling and general waste bins collected fortnightly on alternate weeks. The Waste and Recycling Calendar on the Town's website has details of whether it is a red (general waste) or yellow (recycling) collection week. Due to changes in the waste truck routes, some residents may notice a change in the time of day their bin is serviced.

I don't have a Green Bin.

Please complete an online request at www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/binrequest.

How will the change to FOGO happen?

The Town will send a letter to residents about a month before they are due to changeover to advise when the change will occur. In the week stated in your letter, place your bins out on your usual bin collection day and leave the green bin out until the caddy has been delivered.

Throughout the day, our waste contractor will:

- collect your rubbish as per usual
- apply a new FOGO sticker to your current garden organics waste bin lid
- deliver your kitchen caddy, two rolls of compostable liners and a FOGO brochure. This will be cable tied to your green bin or left in a safe place on your property. If your green bin is not out, you may need to apply the sticker to your green bin lid yourself. The date the new collection frequency will start is on the brochure.

I did not receive a kitchen caddy and liners.

If you are a single residence, duplex or triplex or you received the letter from the Town in May advising you were changing to FOGO, a kitchen caddy and two rolls of liners should have been delivered to your home in late May 2022. For any residents who may have been inadvertently missed, please collect a kitchen caddy from the Town of Cottesloe office. If you are in a strata property with more than four units, you may not be on the FOGO system yet. You will be contacted when your strata property is ready to transition and a kitchen caddy will be provided.

How do I use the kitchen caddy?

As part of the FOGO change over, each household received a kitchen caddy. The caddy is a counter-top style bin with a lid and handle, to keep in your kitchen for collecting food scraps including bones, expired food (no packaging), tea leaves, coffee grounds, used paper towel and napkins. Each household will also receive two rolls of compostable caddy liners, which can be used to line the kitchen caddy.



To use the caddy, insert a compostable liner and start collecting your kitchen scraps inside. After 2-3 days, or once the liner is full, tie the liner and transfer it to your FOGO bin. Put out the FOGO bin for weekly collection on your normal bin day. We recommend you wipe out or wash your caddy regularly. Make sure you only use compostable bin liners in this caddy, never use plastic bags, as these will contaminate the compost. Store your unused compostable liners in a cool dry place to avoid them breaking down.

Do I need caddy liners and where can I buy them?

You can use compostable liners, newspaper, or paper junk mail to line your kitchen caddy.



Alternatively, you can go nude, with no liner. If you do use bags or liners, they must display the certified compostable symbol.



Never put plastic bags or biodegradable bags into the FOGO bin. Compostable liners can be purchased from most supermarkets, Bunnings or the Town reception office (from August 2022).

My household produces too much general waste. What can I do?

Please refer to the Town's waste calendar for tips to reduce the amount of waste you produce or phone the Recycling hotline on 9384 6711 for assistance. Please ensure you separate organic food waste and place it in the FOGO bin and separate recyclable items and place them in the recycle bin or recycle them appropriately. Soft plastics can be recycled via the REDcycle bins at your local supermarket. Containers for Change accept a range of beverage containers. Alternatively, residents can drop bulk waste at the West Metro Recycling Centre. For further information, please refer to www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/waste.

If you still have too much general waste, ratepayers can request a second 120L general waste bin that will be collected fortnightly. A fee applies for supply of the bin, in addition to the annual servicing fee that will be added to your property rates. Requests can be made online at www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/binrequest.

Can I have my general waste bin serviced weekly?

No. The new FOGO 3 bin system will be the standard waste service provided to Town of Cottesloe residents. Local Governments in WA are required under the State Government's Waste Strategy 2030 to introduce a 3 Bin FOGO system by 2025. Reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill is a priority for the Town of Cottesloe.

What can I do to reduce insects and odours from my bins?

- Keep your bins in the shade, with the bin lids tightly closed.
- Be sure to put your FOGO bin out every week on your scheduled day, even if it's not full.
- Don't overfill your compostable caddy bags to prevent the bags breaking.
- Sprinkle baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, or kitty litter in the bin after empty.
- Regularly clean your bin after empty with soapy water.
- Layer newspaper or green waste as it can help to absorb moisture and prevent waste sticking to the bin.
- Add shredded paper, used paper towel or food contaminated cardboard/paper, e.g. pizza boxes, fish and chip wrappers. These also help to absorb moisture.
- Wrap and place odorous food scraps (seafood, meat etc.) in the freezer until collection day.
- Use compostable pet poo bags and tie them off tightly.

Are the Town's dog waste bags compostable?

Yes, the Town's current dog waste bags have the certified compostable symbol and can go in your FOGO bin.



What happens if I live in a strata property?

Until your apartment complex transitions to FOGO, your general waste will continue to be collected weekly. Residents will receive notification prior to their service changing to the FOGO system and kitchen caddies for each household will be supplied at that time.

Small strata properties who have their own three bins will change over to FOGO from June 2022. Other strata complexes with shared bins will be gradually transitioned to the 3-bin FOGO system. Residents from apartments, who are keen to switch to FOGO, can email the Town to register their interest and provide contact details in readiness for the change to FOGO.

I have too many bins.

Residents who currently have additional bins may wish to return the bins to avoid paying unnecessary waste fees. Please complete an online request to remove the bin/s at www.cottesloe.wa.gov.au/binrequest. Once the request is lodged, please leave the empty bin at the front of your property, where it can be accessed, and the Town staff will remove the bin within the week. The annual fees for additional bins will be adjusted to reflect the new collection frequency. All properties should retain the 3 standard bins: 120L general, 240L recycle, 240L FOGO bin.

I do not want a FOGO bin or kitchen caddy.

The Town and the State Government are committed to reducing waste and greenhouse gases. While we hope residents will use the FOGO bin and kitchen caddy provided to reduce waste going to landfill, the 3 waste bins and kitchen caddy should remain at the house for future property occupants.

Who will use the compost made from my FOGO waste?

The compost produced from the contents of your FOGO bins can be used back in our community, sold to farmers and industry, or for rehabilitating land.

The potential uses for the compost will depend on its final quality, so it's important to separate your waste as well as possible and keep plastic, glass and metal out of the FOGO bin. Any non-organic items will contaminate the compost and affect the quality of the final product.

Our FOGO material will be developed into a bagged Brunnings product through GO Organics.

Will Commercial properties receive a FOGO bin service?

The Town is not currently offering a FOGO bin service to commercial properties in Cottesloe.

