

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 and triplexes. Other strata properties will be transitioned to the FOGO three bin system throughout 2022 and 2023.



How will the new FOGO service work?

Homes will retain a three-bin system, but the lime green-lidded GO bin is now a FOGO bin. The FOGO bin is serviced weekly and the red lid general waste bin is 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 is 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 attached.

Throughout the day, your rubbish will be collected as usual; a FOGO sticker will be applied to your existing garden organics waste bin lid; and your new kitchen caddy with two rolls of compostable liners will be delivered. 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 new collection frequency will start on the date stated on your letter, generally a week after delivery of the kitchen caddy.

I did not receive a kitchen caddy and liners.

For most households in Cottesloe, a kitchen caddy and two rolls of compostable caddy liners would have been delivered to your home in late May 2022. The caddy should remain at the home when it is sold.

If you are in a strata property with four or more units, FOGO Bins, a kitchen caddy and liners will be delivered when you change to FOGO.

Additional kitchen caddies and compostable liners can be purchased from the Town reception desk at 109 Broome Street.



How do I use the 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.

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.

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. Containers for Change accept a range of beverage containers. Residents can drop household hazardous waste, e-waste and 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 is 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 is not full.
- Do not overfill your compostable caddy liners to prevent the bags breaking.
- Sprinkle baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, or kitty litter in the bin after empty.
- Regularly clean your empty bin 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?

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. Strata complexes will be gradually transitioned to the 3-bin FOGO system commencing August 2022. Until your apartment complex transitions to FOGO, your general waste will continue to be collected weekly. Residents will receive a letter about a month prior to the waste service at their property changing to the FOGO system. FOGO bins and kitchen caddies for each household will be delivered in the week prior to changeover.

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 have been adjusted to reflect the new collection frequency. All properties should retain the three standard bins: 120L general, 240L recycle, and 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 is 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 is developed into a bagged Brunnings product through GO Organics. Bags can be purchased at Bunnings and other garden centres.

Will Commercial properties receive a FOGO bin service?

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

