

Solid Waste Management Frequently Asked Questions for Apartments and Gated Communities

1. What are the bins and bags for?

Green bin - Compostable waste (Do not use plastic liner)

Reusable Dry waste bag - Recyclable waste

Red bin - Reject/Sanitary waste (Do not use plastic liner)

PLEASE READ THE COMPREHENSIVE PAMPHLET provided to you.

2. Can I use my own bins?

No. The bins provided are colour coded to help housekeeping staff identify the type of garbage. Having a standardised process for all will make it easy and sustainable. These bins are designed after a lot of research so that it is useful for both waste collection and disposal.

3. Why didn't we get pedal bins?

Because pedal bins break easily when handled by housekeeping staff.

4. What should I use to protect my bin from getting dirty?

We strongly recommend not using anything to line your Green bin. If needed, a small piece of newspaper at the bottom of your Green bin will work.

However, sanitary waste like diapers and sanitary napkins need to be wrapped in newspaper before disposing it in the Red bin.

5. I want to line my bin with plastic since it'll get dirty. I'll reuse the plastic bag.

SOILED PLASTIC BAGS CANNOT BE RECYCLED. These type of plastic bags end up in landfills or are just burnt adding more toxins to the environment.

6. Can I line my bins with biodegradable plastic bags?

No. Here are the reasons why:

- Biodegradable plastic bags come in different variety and have different composting durations.
- There are some that may just break down into smaller particles but not organic matter.
- It would be extremely difficult for housekeeping to distinguish b/w biodegradable and non-biodegradable bags.
- Truly biodegradable bags are usually made from corn-starch and can be expensive.

7. How can I train my maid?

Most maids understand that food waste becomes manure (“gobra” in Kannada or “khad” in Hindi). You can tell your maid that only waste that becomes manure goes into the green bin like the kitchen waste (no plastics) . Bathroom waste and swept dust goes to the red bin and anything that goes to a “kabadiwala” or “gujuri angadi” goes to the bag. Most maids understand the concept of scrap dealers (“kabadiwala”/”gujuri angadi”). Hindi and Kannada pamphlets are also available. Please see in “Resources”->”Pamphlets”.

8. I'm worried about my dry waste bag being stolen since I come home late.

Keep your dry waste bag out only over the weekends.

9. What should I do if I have a party at home?

Please avoid using single use paper/plastic plates/cups. Use only reusable plates or Areca nut plates in order to reduce reject waste. Make sure you segregate your waste. Please see “Zero Waste Event Guidelines” under “Resources”

10. What do we do when we have more food waste that can fit in the bin due to parties/guests?

Since these situations are exceptions, you can use another bin to keep the extra food waste. However, please do segregate waste even during parties.

11. I see my neighbour not segregating.

Please feel free to remind them gently about the SWM rules. Please let the SWM volunteer know if this is repeated.

12. How to dispose dogs and other pet's poop?

This needs to be flushed down the toilet if possible. Otherwise, wrap in newspaper, drop it in Reject waste.

For cat litter, a natural organic plant-fibre based product can be used like “Cat's Best Litter”. Once used, the clumps can be flushed easily (depends on type of plumbing - check with your apartment). The wheat fibre based material is quite absorbent, and breaks down in water. dogspot.in/cats-best-clumping-cat-litter-10-ltr

The flip side is it is more expensive. But very convenient in an apartment.

Clay-based litter is not compostable or degradable. Has to be wrapped and put into reject.

There is also plain sawdust (cheap!) - that may work if you have a house with some garden space. There is also recycled paper based litter.

13. Disposal of raisers/knife/blades (has plastic/metal), would it go in Reject Waste?

Yes. However, please wrap any broken glass or sharps in enough newspaper so it doesn't poke through and place **besides** the red bin.

14. When some eatables are bought from outside (i.e) from restaurants, there could be some wastage of gravies like excess chutney, sambar, etc

You could pour your leftover edible liquids(chutney, sambhar etc) into the drain. Put your strainer in the sink to catch the solids. Throw these solids into the green bins. Rinse your plastics and throw it in the DRY waste bag.

Soiled dry waste can be easily rinsed by cutting it open and leaving it in the sink. When dishes are washed, so will the dry waste.



Please remember that the contents of the red bin end up in a landfill...try and avoid putting anything in the red bin unless you have to (things you can't avoid are house dust, hair, sanitary waste, something that is so soiled that it would take way too much water to wash etc).

15. Since we are fish/meat eaters, we would like to line our bins with a plastic liner?

Lining the bins with plastic is absolutely not allowed. However, here are a few tips to handle non-veg waste:

- Drain the liquid and throw the cooked(or uncooked) meat leftovers into an extra sheet of newspaper before throwing into your green bin.
- You can buy an extra green bin if you need to wash your bin regularly in order to switch the bins.

16. How should I dispose of the E-waste?

E-waste or electronic waste consists of batteries, computer parts, wires, electrical equipment of any kind, electrical and electronic toys, remotes, watches, cell phones, bulbs, tube lights and CFLs. Dispose it off separately in the E-waste bin provided near the clubhouse/common area.

17. Is the size of the bin sufficient?

An 8ltr bin can hold upto 2 to 3 days worth of food waste for a family of four. Larger bins would be a hassle to clean.

18. In which bin do we throw an item if it is not mentioned in the pamphlet?

The thumb rule is any item that is not compostable/leaky/ sharp or soiled with bodily fluids would go into the recyclable bag. Based on the type of material, recyclers will segregate it further.

19. What constitutes 100% segregation?

Usually a community with 100% segregation will have 60% Organic, 30% Recyclable, 5% sanitary , 3% inerts and ~2% E-waste/glass. i.e.. On an average per household 600g organic, 300g recyclable and less than 100g for rest of the waste.

20. How do we enforce segregation and handle violations?

Please ask volunteers to explain guidelines to the defaulters once again. Even after three warnings, if resident fails to comply with rules, impose penalty according to your community guidelines. See waste audit form for more details.

21. Where to dispose CFL bulbs and tube lights?

As these are hazardous, collect them separately. Choose an e-waste vendor to pick up these along with the rest of your e-waste every quarter. As this category needs a special process, it's very important to give it to the right vendor.

