

Organics Recycling Guide

All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Tea bags
- Wooden items such as chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks



Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons
- Parchment paper



Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers



Look for the BPI or Cedar Grove logos or the term "compostable" on certified products.



Get labels for your home

Container labels help everyone in your household know which materials to put in the organics recycling, recycling and trash bins. Order the labels pictured at www.minneapolismn.gov/organics.

Tips for setting up organics recycling in your home



Organics are a resource, not a waste! By participating in the organics recycling program, your food scraps and non-recyclable paper products will be recycled into compost – a valuable resource used in landscaping and road construction projects.

This guide includes useful tips and answers to frequently asked questions to help you make the most of the organics recycling program.

Not accepted: Yard waste • diapers and sanitary products • animal and pet waste, litter or bedding • cleaning or baby wipes • grease or oil • Styrofoam™ • dryer sheets and lint • recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic) • frozen food boxes • microwave popcorn bags • gum • fast food wrappers • products labeled "biodegradable"

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats, please contact Solid Waste & Recycling at 612-673-2917 or SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov
 People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157.
 Para asistencia 612-673-2700
 Rau kev pab 612-673-2800
 Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500



City of Minneapolis
 Division of Solid Waste & Recycling
 City of Lakes Building
 309 2nd Ave S, Room 210
 Minneapolis, MN 55401-2281
 612-673-2917
www.minneapolismn.gov/organics



Frequently asked questions

What happens to my organics?

After collection, organics are brought to a large-scale, commercial composting facility. In about six months, your food scraps and non-recyclable paper has been recycled into compost that is put to good use in landscaping and road construction projects.



Will it smell?

Not any more than your garbage smells. Remember that with organics recycling, you're simply moving the organic materials from your garbage cart into another container.

You can help prevent odors by:

- Using a collection container that has a vented lid. Food waste starts to decompose and create odors more quickly when access to oxygen is cut off. You can purchase a pre-made kitchen pail with a vented lid (with or without a carbon filter), or you can make one using an ice cream pail or other container.
- Consider collecting your "wet" organics (food scraps, meat trimmings, etc.) in a large yogurt or cottage cheese container or ice cream pail, and keep that container in your refrigerator or freezer. Dump the wet organics into a compostable bag, and place the bag in your organics cart the night before your collection day.



Prevent odors by using a collection container with a vented lid.



Store "wet" organics in a container in your refrigerator or freezer.

How is organics recycling different from backyard composting?

You can compost more materials with organics recycling than in your backyard compost bin because large-scale, industrial compost facilities maintain higher temperatures than backyard compost bins. These temperatures are needed to kill bacteria and break down items that cannot be composted in a backyard compost bin. These items include meat, bones, dairy products and compostable plastics.

Backyard composting is still a good option for recycling fruit and vegetable scraps and yard waste into a soil amendment that you can use at home.

Is it better to use the garbage disposal or separate my organic materials for organics recycling?

Organics recycling is a better option as finished compost puts valuable nutrients back into our soil. Putting organic waste down the garbage disposal places extra processing burdens on our wastewater treatment facility.

Why can't pet waste be included?

Pet waste contains bacteria that can cause illnesses. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency does not allow compost facilities to accept pet waste; therefore, pet waste, litter and bedding cannot be accepted in residential programs. Pet waste should be picked up and placed in the garbage.

Do I need to use compostable bags?



Yes, you must use compostable bags. This includes either certified compostable plastic bags or paper bags. Compostable plastic bags must have the BPI certified compostable logo.

Although clean paper bags are accepted in the organics recycling program, it is preferred that they are recycled.

Using bags makes it easier to remove organics from your cart and helps reduce odors and pests.

Do pizza boxes, egg cartons, wax boxes and other large paper items need to be in a compostable bag?

No, these larger paper items do not need to be in a compostable bag. They may be placed loose into the organics cart.



Tips for collecting organics at home

1.



Use a kitchen pail lined with a compostable bag to collect food scraps, paper towels and food-soiled paper.

2.



Keep "wet" organics in a container in your refrigerator or freezer until you are ready to bag your organics for collection.

3.



Convert your existing garbage can into an organics bin and use a smaller garbage can.

4.



Label your containers so everyone in your household knows how to sort their waste.

5.



Collect organics (and recycling) throughout your home. Don't forget about the bathrooms, bedrooms, laundry room and office!