

Composting Guidelines

Food Scraps

- Fruit & vegetable scraps, pits, seeds
- Coffee grounds & filters, teabags
- Eggshells
- Breads
- Spoiled food

Place food scraps in compostable bags to keep your cart clean.

Non-Recyclable Paper

- Shredded paper (wet to prevent material from blowing)
- Food-soiled or greasy paper or cardboard
- Wet or waxed cardboard
- Paper bags
- Paper towel & toilet paper rolls
- Tissues, paper napkins, and paper towels
- Wrapping and tissue paper (no ribbons, foil or tape)
- Uncoated paper cups & plates
- Compostable bags made from plant starches
- Compostable containers, dishware & utensils made from plant starches (NO styrofoam or plastic)
- Neon, fluorescent, goldenrod and dark paper (e.g. post-its)

Plant Material

- Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, flowers
- Woody waste up to 6" in diameter
- Potted plants

Place yard waste directly in cart.

Please No...

- Plastic or plastic-coated items
- Frozen food boxes
- Popcorn bags
- Pet waste
- Cotton balls or swabs

For a more complete list, visit your trash hauler's website.

Composting At Home



What is Compost?

- Compost is earthy, dark, organic matter which was once the remains of plant and other once-living materials. Compost is the key ingredient in organic gardening as it is very rich in nutrients. Did you know you can use your food scraps, soiled paper, plants, and other compostables to help create compost?

✓ Why Should I Compost?

- Composting is a critical step in reducing the volume of garbage needlessly sent to landfills for disposal. Studies have shown that home composting can divert an average of 700 lbs. of material per household per year from the waste stream.

✓ What Can I Compost?

- Instead of discarding items into your trash consider if they can be composted. Refer to your trash hauler's guidelines for what materials are compostable.
- Items that can go into your compost bin are; Food scraps; all vegetable and fruit waste, cooked or uncooked grains, tea bags, coffee grounds, egg shells and old bakery products. However, food scraps such as meat, fish, dairy products and oils should **not** be composted. This is because these scraps and their odors can attract rodents and other pests.

✓ What Should I Put My Compost In?

- Compost bins with carbon filters are readily available at your local hardware store, grocery store, or larger retail stores. When purchasing a container be sure to also pick up compostable bags or liners. There are more attractive containers ceramic or stainless steel that you can purchase for countertop use. See images below for some typical types of bins/containers.



✓ Where Should I Keep My Bin?

- The best place for your compost bin to live is a countertop near your sink, under your sink, on top of your fridge or in a pantry or broom closet.

✓ Won't It Stink?

- Compost can get smelly if it sits for too long, so you want to select a place with that in mind. It is typical to empty your container on a weekly basis. If you choose the countertop you may need to empty it more often. Another storage option for your container could be your freezer. A large tupperware container works well for freezing food waste until you are ready to empty it.

✓ Why Filters and Liners?

- The carbon filters in some containers help to eliminate odor caused by compost storage. These filters typically need to be replaced every 6 months. You can purchase them at the store where you bought your container or online.
- A liner inside your compost bin can make for easier emptying and reduce the need to wash your bin as frequently. If you like using a liner inside of your container, make sure it is compostable. You can purchase replacements at the same location you purchased your bin/container or online.

✓ What Else?

- Other Items that can go into your compost bin are; waxed paper, paper bags, pizza boxes, shredded paper, paper towels/napkins and facial tissues, plant material and flowers, compostable dishware, utensils and cups.
- Residential trash customers may compost yard waste by placing items in their regular collection location. Examples of yard waste include; Leaves, weeds, twigs, branches, grass clippings (can be placed in paper bags), potted plants and flowers. Call your trash service provider for more details.
- To learn more about composting and how to build your own backyard compost bin go to www.vegweb.com/composting.

Web Resources for More Green Living Tips:

Local Recycling, Hazardous Materials and Composting: <http://www.ecocycle.org>

More Tips: <http://www.vegweb.com/composting>

Boulder County Housing and Human Services Department:

<http://www.bouldercounty.org/composting>