



Give back to nature with organics recycling

Organics are a resource, not a waste! By participating in the organics recycling program, your food scraps and non-recyclable paper products are put to better use by being recycled into compost – a valuable resource used in landscaping, gardening, and road construction projects.



What's accepted

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



NO: Gum

Certified compostable products

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



Look for the BPI logo on certified products.

NO: Items only labeled as biodegradable, oxo-degradable, earth friendly, made from plants, green, etc.



Food-soiled paper

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



NO: Frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, fast food wrappers, ice cream tubs, towels used with cleaning chemicals

Other compostable household items

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



NO: Yard waste, bandages, diapers or sanitary products, animal and pet waste, litter or bedding, cleaning or baby wipes, Styrofoam, dryer lint or dryer sheets, recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic)

For a detailed list of materials accepted and more information about organics recycling, visit maplegrovemn.gov/420/organics-recycling

How does organics recycling work?

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3



Sort it. Separate your food scraps, coffee grounds, paper towels, tissues and other organics into a certified compostable bag.

- a. Start by collecting food, then add paper and other compostable items.



Drop it. Place your bagged organics in the green organics cart.

- a. Larger items such as pizza boxes from delivery and paper egg cartons do not need to be bagged for collection.



Roll it. Place your organics cart out for weekly collection on the same day as your garbage day.

It's important to include the right things!



For an organics recycling program to be successful, it's important to keep the loads of material free of contaminants. When the facility receives a load that has a certain amount of contamination, it cannot be processed and instead has to be landfilled. Receiving organics with little to no contamination allows composters to produce clean, nutrient-rich compost that people can use in landscaping, gardens, and other projects.

Here are some common contaminants found in recent organics loads:

- **Non-compostable plastic lined-paper products:** to-go boxes, ice cream tubs, food wrappers
- **Recyclables:** cardboard, cartons, aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles
- **Non-compostable plastic bags**

If an item doesn't have the BPI logo and you're unsure whether or not it's compostable, it's best to put that item in the trash or contact city staff to determine if the item is safe to compost. This will help ensure the organics recycling is clean and free of contamination.

Use certified compostable products



When purchasing compostable plastic bags, remember that there are many different brands available. Compostable plastic bags are sold at most grocery, hardware and large retail stores. If you've used a bag that didn't work well for you, try another brand. Remember that the BPI logo must be on certified compostable plastic bags.

More about compostable products



Certified compostable products, including paper and plastic plates, bowls, cups, containers, and utensils, are accepted for organics recycling. Certified compostable products must have the term "compostable" or the BPI logo on them to be accepted.

Paper items that have a shiny or smooth surface, such as coffee cups, to-go containers, and ice cream tubs, likely have a plastic lining and are not accepted in the organics program unless they are identified as a certified compostable item.

If an item doesn't have the term "compostable" or the BPI logo and you're unsure whether or not it's compostable, it's best to put that item in the trash. This will help ensure the organics recycling is clean and free of contamination.



Tips for collecting organics

Use a container with a vented lid



Vented containers allow moisture to evaporate, slowing down the decomposition process of the food in your organics recycling container. This will reduce odors and help your compostable plastic bags hold up longer. If you're purchasing a container, look for one with a vented lid. If you're making your own, simply poke holes in the lid.

Remove liquids



Liquids in your organics recycling container can speed up the decomposition of food and weaken compostable bags. To avoid this, be sure to drain excess liquids before placing food scraps in your collection container. You can also place paper towels or newspaper at the bottom of your collection container to absorb liquids.

Keep your container in the fridge or freezer



Keeping your collection container in the refrigerator or freezer slows down the decomposition process, reduces odors, and prevents pests such as fruit flies. It can also help your compostable bags last longer. Don't put warm items in your compost bag. Wait until they are cool or leave the lid to your container open.

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 environmentalresources.hennepin.us/items

Organics are a resource, not a waste!

The organics recycling cycle:

1. Separate your food waste and other compostable items into an organics container in your home.
2. Put your organics, bagged in certified compostable bags, into your organics recycling cart.
3. Your hauler picks up your organics recycling and brings it to a commercial composting facility, where the materials are recycled into nutrient-rich compost.
4. Compost is used in gardens and at farms to add nutrients to the soil to help plants grow.

