

The Complicated World of COMPOSTABLES

...and why we don't accept them at our compost facility



Compostable, biodegradable, and biobased packaging emerged as a solution to the single-use plastic problem, but new innovations also bring new obstacles to overcome. Erie County has decided NOT to receive compostables in our compost facility, for now.

Why Doesn't Erie County Accept Compostables?

There is little regulatory oversight around claims like "biodegradable," "plant-based," and "compostable." Even products labelled as "compostable" sometimes only partially degrade in compost facilities, leaving fragments behind and sometimes toxic chemicals in the finished compost product. Furthermore, confusing terminology can lead consumers to dispose of non-compostable items in their compost bins.

What Do I Do With Compostables?

We ask that you dispose of your compostables in the trash. While we cannot accept compostables at the Erie County compost facility, you can help reduce single-use waste by choosing reusable products. Instead of using a take-out container, bring a reusable container when you go out to eat. For gatherings, opt for reusable dishes and utensils over plastic.

! IMPORTANT ! EXCEPTION !

We WILL accept BPI or CMA certified compostable liner bags to help keep your kitchen food scrap collector clean and dry.



**CHECK FOR
CERTIFICATIONS**



Look for the BPI or CMA certified compostable label before purchasing and disposing of your liner bags. Certified products go through testing under commercial composting conditions, and are typically compostable.