



What Can I Put in My Compost Bin?

YAY!

Food Scraps: Raw, Cooked, and Spoiled

- FRUITS & VEGGIES (incl. stems, skins, pits, seeds, corn cobs, fruit from trees) (stickers removed)
- DAIRY (cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- MEAT & SEAFOOD (incl. bones, shells, & raw)
- LOBSTER SHELLS (makes the compost rich)
- EGGS & EGG SHELLS
- PASTA, GRAINS & BREAD
- COOKIES, CAKE & CANDY
- NUT & COCONUT SHELLS
- COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS
- NONSYNTHETIC TEA BAGS (okay to incl. staple)
- BPI, CMA, OK Compost CERTIFIED COFFEE PODS*
- COOKING OIL & GREASE (Residential collection only. Liquids go in a non glass container on top of the bin to be poured out. If it solidifies in the container, we cannot take it. Solidified oil/fat can go in a certified liner and then into the bin.)

Household Items

- WOOD (toothpicks, popsicle sticks, chopsticks, sawdust, small wood fruit containers)
- NATURAL WOOD ASH (no Kingsford, Matchlight or similar charcoal, nor synthetic logs) (tie off bag)
- COTTON BALLS (no bodily fluids)
- PET FOOD
- PET WASTE FROM RABBIT, CHICKEN, GUINEA PIG, HAMSTER & BIRD (incl. bedding) (no dog or cat)
- HAIR, FUR (human & animal)
- HOUSE PLANTS & FLOWERS (no soil)
- LEAVES & GARDEN WASTE (with purch. of stickers, see next page) (no grass or sticks over 1" dia.)
- PUMPKIN (remove candle and decorations, one per pick up, place on top of bin)

Food Soiled Paper & Compostables

Clean paper and cardboard are better recycled. We take the following items that are food soiled, but not chemical or cleaner soiled.

- NAPKINS & PAPER TOWELS (incl. bleached) (used on food or w/ organic certified household cleaner)
- COMPOSTABLE TABLEWARE: CUPS, PLATES, UTENSILS, ETC. (MUST be certified compostable*)
- TISSUES (no bodily fluids incl. nasal mucus)
- NEWSPAPER for wrapping food (recycle otherwise)

NAY!

Packaging

- NO PLASTIC: cups, containers, candy wrappers, chip bags, shopping bags, garbage bags, produce bags, plastic wrap, cellophane etc.
- NO CARTONS: milk, juice, ice cream, broth & soup containers (have hidden plastic & foil components)
- **NO PRODUCE STICKERS**, RUBBER BANDS & TIES
- NO MEAL BOX INSULATION
- NO BIODEGRADABLE PACKING PEANUTS
- NO TAKE OUT CONTAINERS & CUPS (most are not compostable, check if certified compostable*)

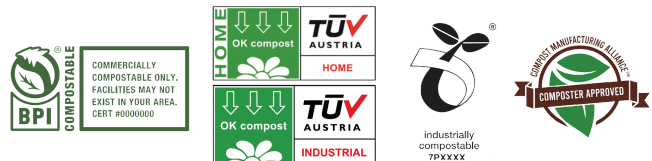
Household Items

- NO BODILY FLUID (blood, mucus, snot)
- NO USED COMPOSTABLE DIAPERS (sorry!)
- NO DOG or CAT WASTE (incl. cat litter)
- NO DEAD ANIMALS
- NO GRASS CLIPPINGS (subscribe to an approved organic yard care partner and we can take it!)
- NO LAUNDRY LINT & DRYER SHEETS
- NO TEXTILES (recycling is available with sticker)
- NO DENTAL FLOSS, Q-TIPS, SANITARY PRODUCTS
- NO CHRISTMAS TREES or WREATHS

Paper & Cardboard

- NO PIZZA BOXES (recycle unless stamped BPI cert.)
- NO SHREDDED PAPER
- NO MAIL, ENVELOPES, SHINY PAPER, MAGAZINES, CEREAL BOXES (due to colored ink & plastics)
- NO PLASTIC or WAXED CARDBOARD
- NO WAX or PARCHMENT PAPER (unless certified*)
- NO CHEMICALLY-SOILED PAPER (baby & disinfectant wipes, paper used w/ chemical cleaners, house paint, machine oil, etc.)

*Compostable products must be **BPI**, **CMA**, or **OK Compost** certified. Items that say biodegradable, compostable or ASTM-6400 alone are NOT accepted. Look for these logos:



Collection Tips

Certified Compostable Liners

Liners are required for your bin. They help keep it clean and prevent food from sticking to the sides. You can use a liner in your curbside bin or kitchen container. When using a bin liner, please *release it from the rim* before pickup. Tying it off is optional.

Liners can be ordered through the Shop in your [online account](#). Our liners are certified compostable and will be delivered during your next pickup when ordered by 3 PM the day before.

You may also use brown paper grocery bags as a liner when temperatures are above freezing.

If purchasing liners elsewhere, make sure they are certified compostable by **BPI, TUV, or CMA**, and that the certification *logo is printed directly on each bag*.

Do *not* store unused liners in your bin. The driver may flip the bin during collection and empty everything inside.

Where to place your bin for pickup

Place your bin on the curb. Make sure it is visible and not behind an obstruction (tree, fence, snowbank) or on the porch. If you share a collection day with trash/recycling, leave space between bins.

What if I have extra food waste?

Aside from pumpkins, everything needs to fit in your bin. If you exceed this capacity regularly, contact us to purchase service for a 2nd bin. For occasional overage, you can fill a paper yard waste bag, place a pre-purchase sticker on the bag, and leave it out with your green bin. Learn more about stickers [here](#).

Textile Recycling / Yard Waste / Event Collection

Subscribers can have textiles, yard waste, and event waste collected w/ pre-purchased stickers. Place the sticker on the bag and leave it next to your bin for collection when there is no rain. Learn about what can be included & the type of bag to use [here](#).
(Not available in Rhode Island or Cape Cod)

Reduce bugs and smells.

Visit blackearthcompost.com/bin-maintenance for tips on maintaining your bin.

Holiday Schedule

Ipswich, Lexington, Manchester, Natick &

Watertown - Please follow your trash schedule.

All other towns - There is a one-day delay for these select holidays: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. For all other holidays, there is no delay. Please have your bin out on your regular day, even if your trash/recycling collection is delayed.

Inclement Weather

Unless we notify you of a schedule change, put your bin out when it is snowing. Make sure it is easily accessible and not hiding behind a snowbank.

Compost for Residential Customers

A voucher for a cubic foot bag of compost will be posted to your account in April. Redeem from a participating garden center or apply it to a delivery order of 10+ bags. Excludes Ipswich, Manchester & Watertown where compost is distributed through the DPW. (New customers, as of Jan. 15th, will receive a voucher the following year.) The option to donate your compost to [Backyard Growers](#) is available through your online account.

Receive a discount of \$5/yard on bulk orders at any time. The discount applies automatically when you log into your account at the start of the order form.
BULK COMPOST/SOIL PRODUCTS & RAISED BEDS

New! CHaRM Collection of Hard to Recycle Material

Sign up for a one time or recurring collection of donations, textiles, electronics, and other hard to recycle items. We find the best end use for them. Visit blackearthcompost.com/hard-2-recycle/

Need help? Use your [online account](#) to:

- Purchase bin liners, stickers or a replacement bin
- Report a missed pickup
- Change service address change
- Update payment method
- Contact customer support and more



BLACK EARTH COMPOST

4.24.2025



What Can I Put in My Compost Bin?

Looking for a certified organic cleaner?

Check ewg.org. Anything grade A or B is acceptable.

Textile Recycling / Yard Waste / Event Collection

Subscribers can have textiles, yard waste, and event waste collected with pre-purchased stickers. Place the sticker on the bag and leave it next to your bin for collection when there is no rain. Purchase stickers through your online account. [Learn more about what can be included and how.](#)

- TEXTILE RECYCLING (Use a white drawstring trash bag with a sticker. Max of 3 bags per wk.)

ACCEPTED: All clothing including belts, hats, intact shoes, jackets, gloves, etc. Any fabric like towels, curtains, linens, fabric scraps, etc.

NOT ACCEPTED: Carpets/rugs, comforters, pillows or other inserts, heavily worn shoes or stuffed animals. Any wet, moldy, or mil-dewy textiles.

- YARD WASTE (Use a yard waste bag with a sticker. Max of 3 bags per wk.)

ACCEPTED: Leaves, weeds, small plants, sticks smaller than a half inch round, soiled paper products

NOT ACCEPTED: Grass from non-organic lawns (subscribe to our preferred lawn care service and we can take it!), sticks greater than a half inch round.

Ways to reduce bugs and smells.

- Keep the inside of your bin dry! Squeeze out tea bags for example.
- Rinse the bin and countertop container after emptied and let dry.
- Put baking soda on the bottom of the bin
- Use countertop compostable liners, tying off helps
- Freeze scraps from earlier in the week
- Wrap meat/fish in newspaper like a burrito
- Keep bin out of the sun

Visit blackearthcompost.com/bin-maintenance for more tips on maintaining your bin.

Please ensure that your bin is placed in a visible location along the road and is easily accessible without the need to walk through snow.