

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



Food-soiled paper

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



Certified compostable products

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

Look for the term “compostable” or the BPI logo on certified products.



Other compostable household items

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



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

Tips for collecting organics at home



Use a kitchen pail with a vented lid and line it with a compostable bag. Vented containers allow moisture to evaporate, which will reduce odors and help your compostable bags hold up longer.



Drain excess liquids before placing food scraps in your collection container. You can also keep “wet” organics in your refrigerator or freezer, or place paper towels or newspaper at the bottom of your container. This all helps to slow the decomposition of food, reduce odors, prevent flies, and help compostable bags last longer.



Know what is accepted for organics recycling and keep non-compostable materials out. Receiving organics free of contamination allows local composters to consistently produce clean, nutrient-rich compost that people want to purchase and use. If you aren't sure what to do with an item, refer to the organics recycling guide or put it in the trash.



Focus on collecting food. Spoiled food and food scraps are the most common material in the trash and the most nutrient-rich material in the composting process, which makes them the most important material to collect for organics recycling.



Label your containers so everyone in your household knows how to sort their waste. Order free labels for your recycling, organics recycling and trash bins at hennepin.us/organics. Remember to collect organics (and recycling) throughout your home, including in the bathrooms, bedrooms, and office!

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