

Organics

Recycling at work



All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels



Certified compostable products

- Compostable cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

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



Other compostable items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Tissues
- Plants and flowers
- Wooden items such as chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks



Not accepted: Plastic-coated items like coffee and soda cups, and uncertified to-go containers • diapers and sanitary products • frozen food boxes • milk cartons • products labeled "biodegradable" • cleaning wipes • grease or oil • Styrofoam™ • recyclable items (glass, metal, paper, plastic) • microwave popcorn bags • gum • fast food wrappers and condiment packets

Avoid contamination

If you are confused about what to put in the organics bin, stick to the basics!

All food waste is accepted



Food waste makes up the bulk of waste that can be composted, so you still make a positive difference even if you only put food in the organics bin.

Put it in the trash if you are unsure



Items that cause contamination increase processing costs and may result in lower-quality compost. If you aren't sure what to do with an item, put it in the trash bin.

Watch for greenwashing

Greenwashing is a marketing strategy in which companies use several tactics to mislead consumers into thinking their products are better for the environment than is actually the case. "Biodegradable" or "oxo-degradable" labeled products may contain plastic and cannot be composted. Look for products that are labeled "compostable" or the BPI logo on certified products.

Save the food



Learn tips on how to prevent food waste by cooking it, storing it, or sharing it at savethefood.com.

Why compost?



Collecting organics for composting helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and supports the local economy. Finished compost is commonly used to provide nutrients in gardens or roadside plantings.

Hennepin County

Environment and Energy

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