

WHY COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS?

It's estimated that over 40% of all edible food in the U.S. is thrown out. Some of this waste can be reduced if we shop wisely, plan meals out, eat leftovers and find creative recipes or uses for food and scraps we have on hand, but if we have unwanted or unusable food scraps, recycling/composting them is the next best thing.

1. **It's easy! Collect food scraps and set out for collection each week.**
2. **Reduces garbage.**
3. **Preserves landfill space.**
4. **Reduces greenhouse gas production.**
5. **Creates compost.** Food scraps help to create a nutrient rich soil amendment that improves soil health and function. Compost rebuilds soils, protects topsoil from erosion, conserves water and attracts earthworms and other helpful organisms.

For more information on this program, composting, or if you'd like to purchase a backyard composter for your home, visit swalco.org or call 847-336-9340.

Residential Food Scrap Program Guide to Your Organics Collection Service



How To Compost Food Scraps

You can now mix your food scraps along with your yard waste as part of your community's curbside yard waste program.

1. **Collect food scraps** in your kitchen pail. Do not use plastic bags, biodegradable plastic or any type of plastic to line your collector.
2. **Empty foods scraps** into your large curbside cart (not to exceed 50 pounds).
3. **Set Out** your cart at the curb on regular collection day. Make sure everything fits in the cart and keep the lid closed.

Tips:

You may want to use a kitchen pail inside your home to collect scraps. You can line with paper towels, newspapers or paper bags. Empty frequently into your large cart outside. Rinse after use (with vinegar or dish soap solution), sprinkle with baking soda and keep container closed. You can also freeze your food scraps.



Cart Care and How-To Tips

Placing food scraps and food-soiled paper in your yard waste/food scraps cart isn't much different than placing them in your trash.

- You can line your cart with a Kraft bag.



From Home...To Cart...To Curb... ..To Compost!



- You may want to place yard trimmings, newspaper or pizza box at the bottom.
- Place yard trimmings directly into your cart.
- Layer your food scraps with yard trimmings inside the cart.
- Food scraps can be wrapped in paper towels, old newspapers or paper bags for a cleaner cart.
- Rinse your cart with a garden hose when necessary. Periodically rinse with mild soap and water. Sprinkle in baking soda as needed. Keep lid closed and set in shaded area.

What Can Be Composted in this Program?

- ♣ **Fruits and Vegetables** - includes herbs and unpainted holiday pumpkins.
- ♣ **Meat, Poultry, and Seafood** -includes shells and bones.
- ♣ **Dairy and Eggs** - includes shells; no liquids.
- ♣ **Paper Products** - includes soiled paper towels, napkins, plates, and pizza boxes.
- ♣ **Leftovers/kitchen scraps** - includes coffee grounds, tea bags and filters.
- ♣ **Breads, Grains, Pasta and Cereal**

DO NOT INCLUDE: Any type of plastics, glass, metal, diapers, pet waste, or liquids (including oil).