

Organics Guide

AnokaCounty.us/organics
763-324-3400

What are organics?

Organics are natural materials that completely break down to make compost. They include all food scraps, most non-recyclable and food-soiled paper and BPI certified compostable products (see reverse side). At this time, yard waste cannot be included with other organics in the Anoka County Organics Drop-off Program. This program is separate from the regular yard waste program for leaves, grass clippings and brush. Do not mix your food waste with your yard waste.

Yes

- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Bread, pasta and cereal
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Meat, poultry and fish (including bones)
- Wooden items: popsicle sticks, chopsticks and toothpicks
- Fruits, vegetables, peels, pits and rinds
- Non-recyclable, uncoated paper products: delivery pizza boxes, paper egg cartons, paper towels, napkins and tissues
- BPI certified compostable products: bags, paper plates, cups and utensils



COMPOSTABLE
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. **Not suitable for backyard composting.** CERT # SAMPLE

No - Do not include these items

- Plastic of any kind: plastic bags, K-cups, Styrofoam®, straws, stickers on produce
- Glass of any kind
- Metal of any kind
 - Aluminum foil
 - Twist ties
- All coated paper products (which are not certified compostable)
 - Fast food cups, wrappers and boxes
 - Refrigerator and freezer food boxes
 - Milk and other beverage cartons
 - Candy wrappers
- Wax paper and parchment paper
- Grease and oil (large amounts)
- Diapers, diaper wipes, sanitary products, litter and pet waste



Printed on a minimum of 30% recycled content.

Look For This Logo on Compostable Products

This logo indicates a product will break down at an industrial compost facility. Only BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute) certified compostable bags and products are tested by an independent approved lab that verifies these products break down completely, similar to leaves and grass. Bags or products marked “biodegradable” or “degradable” may not completely break down. Compostable bags are usually tinted a translucent shade of green, white or pink; however, the color is not a sure method for determining if a bag is compostable. It must have the BPI compostable logo on the packaging.



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Prevent Odor

- Use the provided kitchen food scrap pail with a vented lid.
- Keep spoiled food in fridge or freezer until collection or drop-off day.
- In the winter, store bags of organics in your garage.
- Put facial tissue or paper towels in the bottom of the bag to absorb any liquid generated from the food waste.
- Wash or rinse the pail when you change the bag.
- Drop off organics weekly.



Collect Around The House

- Place small organics containers by trash cans.
- Collect toilet paper rolls, pet fur, houseplant trimmings and other organic materials from the bathroom, living room or any area of the home.

Leave These Out!

These items cannot be composted and are contaminants:

- Any paper items with a shiny lining, such as coffee cups and to-go containers are coated with plastic and belong in the garbage. They are not recyclable or compostable.
- Plastic stickers, plastic packaging and rubber bands from your produce are not compostable and should be removed.



It is extremely important to ensure plastic materials do not get into an industrial compost facility because they do not break down. Small plastic pieces cannot be screened out, and reduce the quality of the finished compost.

Know Before You Go

Please bag all organics prior to coming to the drop-off site. Securely tie a knot to close the bag. (Do not use metal twist ties.) This helps prevent odor, pests, loose debris in the container and makes a more pleasant experience for everyone.



These tips will help create a beautiful finished compost!