



What Can I Put in My Bin?

YAY!

Food Waste

- COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS
- BPI, CMA, OK Compost CERTIFIED COFFEE PODS*
- NONSYNTHETIC TEA BAGS (okay to incl. staple)
- EGGS & EGG SHELLS
- MEAT & SEAFOOD (incl. bones, shells, & raw)
- LOBSTER SHELLS (makes the compost rich)
- FRUITS & VEGGIES (incl. stems, skins, pits, seeds, corn cobs, fruit from trees) (stickers removed)
- DAIRY (cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- PASTA, GRAINS & BREAD
- COOKIES, CAKE & CANDY
- NUT & COCONUT SHELLS
- COOKING OIL & GREASE (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 goes in a liner and put in 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)
- WINE CORKS (cork, not plastic!)
- PET FOOD
- PET WASTE FROM RABBIT, CHICKEN, GUINEA PIG, HAMSTER & BIRD (incl. bedding) (no dog or cat)
- HAIR, FUR (human & animal)
- HOUSE PLANTS & FLOWERS
- 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

- ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC: cups, containers, candy wrappers, chip bags, shopping bags, garbage bags, produce bags, plastic wrap, cellophane etc.
- ABSOLUTELY NO CARTONS: milk, juice, ice cream, shelf-stable cream, broth & soup containers (they 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, check the search tool on each website, or contact the product company if unsure.



Collection Tips

Compostable Liners

We require that your bin or countertop container be lined. This helps keep your bin clean and prevents it from freezing or sticking to the sides. You can use certified* compostable liners. We also accept brown paper bags when the temperature is above freezing.

Compostable liners for the bin or a countertop container are available for purchase through your [online account](#) and we'll drop them off during your scheduled pick-up. If you purchase liners somewhere else, make sure they are [BPI](#), [CMA](#), or [OK Compost](#) certified and the correct dimensions.

DO NOT STORE LINERS IN THE BIN. The driver may flip the bin over and empty everything inside.

Where to place your bin for pickup

Place your bin on the curb as you would your trash can. Make sure it is visible for your driver and not behind an obstruction such as a tree, fence, or snowbank. If you share a collection day with trash/recycling, leave space between bins. Your driver will not see the bin if it is left on your porch.

What if I have extra food waste?

Aside from pumpkins, certified* pizza, and shipping boxes 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 yard waste bag, place a pre-purchase sticker on the bag, and leave it next to your green bin on your collection day. 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. Purchase stickers through your online account. Visit blackearthcompost.com/textile-yard-waste-event-collection-sticker/ to learn what can be included & the type of bag to use. *(Not available in Rhode Island or Cape Cod)*

Reduce bugs and smells.

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

Inclement Weather

Unless we notify you of a schedule change, put your bin out when it is snowing. Make sure it is not covered by snow or hiding behind a snowbank. The liners keep food from freezing to the side of the bin.

Holiday Pick-ups

Lexington, Manchester & Watertown, please follow your trash schedule. For all other towns, we pick up on most holidays. Have your bin out on your regular day, even if your trash and recycling collection is delayed. If your schedule is changed, we will notify you via email. The holidays you may experience a schedule change are Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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.)

If you choose to donate your compost, it will go to [Backyard Growers](#). Your compost selection can be updated in your online account.

Receive \$5/yard discount on bulk orders any time. To have it applied automatically, log into your account at the start of the order form.

BULK COMPOST/SOIL PRODUCTS & RAISED BEDS

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

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

Recycle Your Electronics

We will reach out via email when we plan to swing by your town and collect electronics for recycling. Visit blackearthcompost.com/electronic-recycling/



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