

The Denver COM-POST

A Biannual Newsletter of the Denver Composts Program • January 2014

You did it! Denver Composts is Expanding

Your dedication to composting helped show that composting can work in Denver. Denver Composts is now expanding to other parts of the City and your participation and commitment to the pilot program was a key factor in making this possible. Thank you!

**Eliminate
Waste –
Compost
More!**

Compostable material is not just limited to yard debris. Maximize your compost collection service by putting food scraps and non-recyclable paper items in your green cart. Keep those leftovers out of the trash and start composting them today!

Compostable **FOOD** Includes:

Poultry
Processed foods
Rice & pasta
Salads
Burritos & tacos
Fish & shellfish
Fruits & vegetables

Grains
Gravy & sauces
Meat (including bones)
Nuts & nut shells
Popcorn
Pizza
Baked goods

Breads
Cereal
Cheese
Coffee grounds & filters
Dairy products
Eggs & eggshells



Compostable **NON-RECYCLABLE PAPER** Includes:

Paper plates
Paper cups
(without lids)
Tea bags

Coffee filters
Facial tissue
Paper towels
Paper napkins

Paper take-out
cartons
Wax paper
Waxed cardboard



NO: Plastics, Glass, Metal, Liquids, Cooking Oil & Grease, Diapers, Pet Litter or Trash.

Questions about the compost program?



Visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles,
email DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org or call 311.
(Para la información en Español llame al 311 or visite
DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles/sp)



Your Participation is Making a Difference! Your actions are ...

○ **Keeping material out of the landfill.** Each home participating in the compost program kept an average of 1,000 pounds of organic material out of the landfill last year.

○ **Producing valuable compost.** Instead of trashing valuable resources, your food scraps, non-recyclable paper and yard debris are being naturally recycled into high quality landscaping compost.

○ **Helping the environment.** By composting you are helping to improve soil health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Common Compost Collection Questions

1. How can the Denver Composts program accept things like meat and dairy?

Denver Composts materials are processed at a commercial composting site where the compost piles reach and maintain a

temperature of at least 131°F for a minimum of 15 days. This process efficiently kills pathogens and breaks down meat, fish and

dairy. Backyard compost piles are not able to achieve and maintain such high temperatures, and longer decomposition periods can generate smells and attract rodents or pests.



2. Why should I put my food waste in the Denver Composts cart? It's easier to use the garbage disposal in my sink.

Garbage disposals use more fresh water per pound of food than composting, and putting food waste through the sewer system adds stress to an aging infrastructure. Disposals are meant for the little bits.

3. How can I keep my green cart smelling good and looking clean?

You can minimize smells in your green cart by:

- Ensuring you set your cart out every week for collection.
- Draining as much liquid as possible from organic material.
- Mixing your food waste between layers of yard debris.
- Wrapping food scraps with newspaper or placing scraps in a paper bag before putting them in your cart.
- Using BPI certified compostable bags like BioBags to hold your food waste.
- Freezing leftover meat and fish scraps and then waiting to put them in your cart right before your collection day.
- Occasionally rinsing out your cart.

4. Should I compost paper or recycle it? Which is better?

Recycling paper into new materials has greater environmental benefits than composting that same material. However non-recyclable and food-contaminated paper that is not accepted for recycling should absolutely go in your green cart. Check out the list of non-recyclable paper on the reverse side and if you have questions about specific items don't hesitate to contact us at DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to go green and start composting. Space in the expanded program is limited. They can sign up or learn more at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.



Denver Recycles is asking you to recycle **2** more pounds a week in 2014

If everyone in Denver recycled 2 more pounds a week in 2014 we could keep 57,000 tons of recyclables out of the landfill and save more than 150,000 barrels of oil! What does 2 more pounds a week look like?

The answer may surprise you. Go to DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles to learn more about the campaign and how you can help.



RECYCLE MORE DENVER!