

The Denver COM-POST

21 Things You Didn't Know You Could Compost:

Boost your composting efforts by putting these items in your green cart.

1. Avocado pits
2. **Old Halloween candy (wrappers off)**
3. Wooden bamboo skewers
4. Crab shells
5. **Watermelon rinds**
6. Crepe paper party streamers
7. Expired jams and jellies
8. Facial tissue
9. Pickles
10. Old breakfast cereal
11. Popcorn kernels (post-popping)
12. **Wooden popsicle sticks**
13. Moldy cheese
14. Stale chips and crackers
15. Old, dry pet food
16. **Paper cupcake cups**
17. Cooked rice and pasta
18. Feathers (natural)
19. Paper sugar packets
20. **Peanut shells**
21. Freezer burned food



Using and Buying Compostable Bags

Using compostable bags is a good way to keep your kitchen pail and compost cart clean and odor free during the summer months. However, before you purchase or use bags, make sure they are truly compostable. Certified compostable bags



carry the official **BPI logo** (Biodegradable Products Institute)

and are made from plant-based materials. These bags have been tested to ensure that they will compost quickly, completely and safely. BPI bags are generally green in color to make it easy for the composting processor to distinguish these bags from non-

compostable plastic bags. **Non-compostable plastic bags should never be placed in your green cart.**

Trusted compostable bag brands include BioBag®, Bag-To-Nature®, Glad Compostable®, BioSak®, EcoSafe®, EcoGuard® and Nature-Friendly®.



Common Compost Collection Questions

1.

Can I put dryer lint and vacuum cleaner waste in my green cart?

NO. Lint collected from dryers or contents collected in vacuums often contain synthetic materials that will not decompose and cannot be easily sifted out.

4.

Is pet hair compostable?

YES. Sheddings taken directly off your pet brush can go in your green cart. Hair is a rich source of nitrogen and can add structure and stability to the final compost material.



2.

What about lumber, treated wood and sawdust?

NO. This type of wood has been treated with various types of chemicals to make them more durable for construction. As such, this material does not compost well and contaminates the final compost product with unwanted and toxic chemicals.

3.

Are paper towels, napkins and plates okay to go in my green cart?

YES. Lower grade papers such as napkins, towels and plates decompose relatively quickly and are accepted for composting. Plastic coated "glossy" paper plates however are not accepted for composting.



Questions about what can go in your green cart?

Visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles, email DenverRecycles@denvergov.org or call **311** (720-913-1311).

(Para la información en Español llame al 311 (720-913-1311) or visite DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles/sp)

From Your Compost Cart to Final Product

After your green cart is emptied, the organic material inside is hauled to a commercial composting facility operated by **A1 Organics** in Keenesburg, Colorado. At this facility the organic material is ground into fine pieces by an industrial grinder, so it can break down quickly.



To make certain pathogen destruction takes place and the compost reaches appropriate nutrient values, **A1 Organics maintains its compost winnows between 90 to 120 days under controlled temperatures and conditions.** When the composting process is completed, A1 Organics performs a number of analytical tests



on the compost, using an independent laboratory. This final testing and documentation ensures that the compost is a quality product, meets industry

regulations and is ready to be sold on the open market. Much of the finished product is sold to local farmers and retailers. If you are interested in purchasing A1 Organics compost, it can be purchased from **Pioneer Sand and Gravel** locations in bulk (unbagged).

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