

# The Denver COM-POST

A Biannual Newsletter of the Denver Composts Program • July 2015

## 5 Tips For Keeping the Stink Out of Your Compost Cart This Summer

Strong odors are often caused by excessive moisture in the materials in your compost cart. Here are five ways you can minimize those smells:

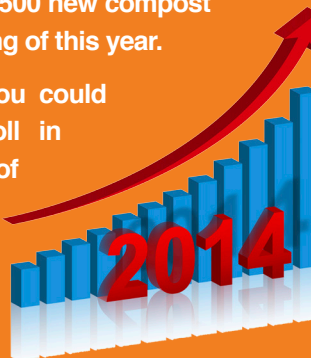
- 1. Drain as much liquid as possible** from organic material prior to placing in your green cart.
- 2. Alternate layers of food waste and yard debris** in your green cart to help absorb any extra moisture.
- 3. Wrap meat scraps or dairy items in newspaper or paper towels** or place these materials in a paper bag prior to putting them in your green cart.
- 4. Keep food scraps in your freezer** or refrigerator until the day before your scheduled collection.
- 5. Be sure to set your green cart out for collection every week** and keep the cart lid shut.



## Denver Composters Take a Big Bite Out of Waste

**Way to go composters!** Thanks to your efforts, nearly 4 million pounds of organic material were kept out of landfills in 2014. That averages about 900 pounds of organic material per Denver Composts program participant! Denver Composts participants recycled and composted about 50% of their waste. The outlook is even better for 2015, as more than 2,500 new compost signups have joined the program since the beginning of this year.

As a program participant, it would be great if you could encourage your friends and neighbors to enroll in the Denver Composts program. Spread the joy of reducing waste and protecting our environment. There are still openings on all routes to add more composters to the program. Consider sharing this newsletter with others to help increase compost participation.



## Avoid BILL PAY Errors

The highest rate of compost payment errors occur when residents improperly set up payment through the online Bill Pay system of their banking institution. When a payment is made through your bank's Bill Pay system, the payment is not sent electronically. Instead, the bank prints a check and sends it out in the mail. **These checks arrive without the payment slip, so any incorrect information can result in the payment getting misdirected or improperly processed.** When this occurs, Denver Solid Waste Management records might not show that any payment has been received.

If you decide to make your compost payment through your bank's Bill Pay system, be sure to:



- ✓ Fill out the entire address, including "Denver Composts" and Department Number

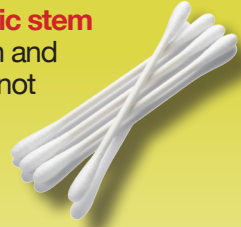
Denver Composts  
201 W. Colfax Ave.  
Dept. 611  
Denver, CO 80202

- ✓ Make payable to "Manager of Finance"
- ✓ Include your compost account number
- ✓ Enter the correct payment amount

Following the steps above will help to ensure that your compost payment is received and properly entered.

# COMPOST Q & A

**Are used cotton swabs compostable?** **Yes**, if the cotton swabs (Q-tips®) are all paper and cotton. **No plastic stem swabs.** Be sure to check the information printed on the packaging to make sure the swabs are made of cotton and not synthetic fibers. Cotton is a natural substance and a great addition to the compost. Synthetic material will not decompose.



**Are dryer sheets compostable?** **No.** Dryer sheets are mostly made of synthetic fibers and don't fully decompose. Also, the chemicals in the dryer sheets can contaminate the compost product.

**Is parchment paper compostable?** **Yes.** Culinary parchment paper will easily break down and is non-toxic.

**Can I put my organic material in plastic bags?** **No.** Plastic bags (along with all plastics) are a serious contaminant in the composting process. If you are going to use bags, select plain paper bags or certified compostable bags that have the official BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute) logo on them.



## Food (Comida)



## Non-Recyclable Paper (Papel Sucio)



## Yard Debris (Desechos del Jardín)



Questions about what can go in your green cart?

Visit [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](https://denvergov.org/DenverRecycles), email [DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org](mailto:DenverRecycles@DenverGov.org) or call **311** (720-913-1311)  
(Para la información en Español llame al **311** (720-913-1311) o visite [DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles/sp](https://denvergov.org/DenverRecycles/sp))

