

# WHAT CAN I PUT IN THE COMPOST BIN?

## YAY!

- **PAPER:** Paper is a wood product and essential for compost as the fuel (carbon) that heats the pile and puts the microbes to work. This includes: **FOOD-SOILED PAPER** (as opposed to chemically soiled): pizza boxes, paper towels, napkins, tissues, *real* paper plates, cups and food containers with matte finish (NOT the shiny plastic kind) **NEWSPAPER** (ink is typically soy-based, so no problem)
- **WAX PAPER & CARDBOARD** (even if paraffin-based, but *definitely not any kind of plastic wrap or cellophane*)
- **COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS** and **TEA BAGS**
- **FOOD WASTE**, for example:
- **RAW or COOKED MEAT & SEAFOOD**
- **DAIRY**
- **PASTA, GRAINS & BREAD**
- **COOKIES, CAKE & CANDY** (including gum)
- **EGGS & eggshells**
- **FRUITS & VEGGIES** (including stems, skins, pits, seeds)
- **NUT & COCONUT SHELLS**
- **COOKING OIL & GREASE**
- **ANYTHING ORGANIC**, including:
- **HOUSE PLANTS & FLOWERS** (but no yard waste, see next column)
- **WOOD** toothpicks, popsickle sticks, chop sticks
- **SAWDUST**
- **COTTON SWABS & BALLS**
- **WINE CORKS** (cork, not plastic!)
- **STOVE, GRILL & FIREPLACE ASH**
- **PET FOOD** (unused)
- **PET WASTE:** RABBIT, CHICKEN, BIRD, HAMSTER bedding & waste
- **HAIR & FUR** (human, animal)

## NAY!

- **ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC OF ANY KIND** (cups, containers, food wrap, candy wrap, chip bags, shopping bags, garbage bags, produce bags etc etc etc). These will never decompose. Ever. These need to be **RECYCLED**.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO CARTONS** (milk, juice, shelf-stable cream, broth and soup containers are “hybrid” containers that have hidden plastic and foil components that are not biodegradable; they are not simply waxed-paper cartons)
- **DIAPERS**
- **SANITARY PRODUCTS**
- **DOG or CAT WASTE**
- **CAT LITTER**
- **DEAD ANIMALS**
- **YARD WASTE & GRASS CLIPPINGS** (most yard waste is contaminated with chemicals and fertilizers; it should be taken to the Standley Street compost facility)
- **LAUNDRY LINT & DRYER SHEETS**
- **CHEMICALLY-SOILED PAPER** (baby and disinfectant wipes, paper used with other chemical cleaning solutions, house paint, machine oil, etc)
- **TEXTILES** (these should be taken to the outdoor textile recycle centers that can be found at all Beverly public schools)
- **TAKE-OUT FOOD CONTAINERS** (find out at point of purchase if they are compostable; most are not)