

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, popsicle 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)
- LAUNDRY LINT & DRYER SHEETS
- CHEMICALLY-SOILED PAPER (baby and disinfectant wipes, paper used with other chemical cleaning solutions, house paint, machine oil, etc.)
- TAKE-OUT FOOD CONTAINERS (find out at point of purchase if they are compostable; most are not)