## What Can I Put in My Black Earth Compost Bin?

### YAY!

#### Food Waste
- COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS
- BPI OR CMA CERTIFIED COFFEE PODS*
- NONSYNTHETIC TEA BAGS (okay to incl. staple)
- EGGS & EGGSHELLS
- MEAT & SEAFOOD (incl. bones, shells, & raw)
- LOBSTER SHELLS (makes the compost rich)
- FRUITS & VEGGIES (incl. stems, skins, pits, seeds, corn cobs, fruit from trees) (stickers removed)
- DAIRY (cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- PASTA, GRAINS & BREAD
- COOKIES, CAKE & CANDY
- NUT & COCONUT SHELLS
- COOKING OIL & GREASE (leave jar on bin)

#### Household Items
- WOOD (toothpicks, popsicle sticks, chopsticks, sawdust, small wood fruit containers)
- STOVE, GRILL & FIREPLACE ASH (tie bag)
- COTTON BALLS (no bodily fluid)
- WINE CORKS (cork, not plastic!)
- PET FOOD
- PET WASTE FROM RABBIT, CHICKEN, GUINEA PIG, HAMSTER & BIRD (incl. bedding) (no dog or cat)
- HAIR, FUR, FEATHERS (human & animal)
- HOUSE PLANTS & FLOWERS
- LEAVES & GARDEN WASTE (with purch. of stickers, see next page) (no grass or sticks over 1” dia.)

#### Food Soiled Paper & Compostables
Clean paper and cardboard are better recycled. We take the following items that are food soiled, but not chemical or cleaner soiled.
- NAPKINS & PAPER TOWELS (incl. bleached) (used on food or w/ organic certified household cleaner)
- COMPOSTABLE TABLEWARE: CUPS, PLATES, UTENSILS, ETC. (MUST be BPI or CMA certified*)
- TISSUES (no bodily fluids incl. nasal mucus)
- EGG CARTONS & PAPER TOWEL TUBES
- PIZZA BOXES (okay to leave next to bin)
- NEWSPAPER (no inserts or magazines)
- CARDBOARD BOXES (1-2/week with plastic tape & labels removed)

### NAY!

#### Packaging
- ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC: cups, containers, food & candy wrap, chip bags, shopping bags, garbage bags, produce bags, plastic wrap, cellophane etc.
- ABSOLUTELY NO CARTONS: milk, juice, ice cream, shelf-stable cream, broth & soup containers (they have hidden plastic & foil components)
- NO PRODUCE STICKERS, RUBBER BANDS & ALL PRODUCE & MEAT PACKAGING
- NO MEAL BOX INSULATION
- NO Biodegradable PACKING PEANUTS
- NO TAKE OUT CONTAINERS & CUPS (most are not compostable, check at purch. if BPI or CMA cert.*

#### Household Items
- NO BODILY FLUID (blood, mucus, snot)
- NO USED COMPOSTABLE DIAPERS (sorry!)
- NO SANITARY PRODUCTS
- NO DOG or CAT WASTE (incl. cat litter)
- NO DEAD ANIMALS
- NO GRASS CLIPPINGS (subscribe to an approved organic yard care partner and we can take it!)
- NO LAUNDRY LINT & DRYER SHEETS
- NO TEXTILES (see textile recycling on next page)
- NO DENTAL FLOSS or Q-TIPS

#### Paper
- NO SHREDDED PAPER
- NO MAIL, ENVELOPES, SHINY PAPER, MAGAZINES, CEREAL BOXES (due to colored ink & plastics)
- NO PLASTIC or WAXED CARDBOARD
- NO WAX or PARCHMENT PAPER (unless certified*)
- NO CHEMICALLY-SOILED PAPER (baby & disinfectant wipes, paper used w/ chemical cleaners, house paint, machine oil, etc.)

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*Compostable products, such as liners or tableware, must be BPI certified or CMA approved. Items that says 100% biodegradable or 100% recycled are NOT compostable. Look for the BPI logo or check the CMA website for their accepted product list!
Black Earth Compost Tips

Where to place your bin for pickup
When placing your bin on the curb always check to make sure it is visible for your driver. Make sure it is not behind an obstruction such as a tree, fence, or snowbank. Your driver will not see the bin if it is left on your porch or steps.

DO NOT STORE LINERS IN THE BIN. The driver may flip the bin over and empty everything inside.

Lining your bin
Line your bin with a brown paper bag or compostable liner. If using compostable liners, you can line the curbside bin or the countertop container (you do not need to line both).

Purchase 13 gallon liners that fit the curbside bin perfectly or 3 gallon countertop liners through your online account and they will be delivered during your next scheduled pickup. If you purchase liners somewhere else, make sure they are BPI certified or CMA approved.

What if I have extra food waste?
Aside from pizza boxes and shipping boxes everything needs to fit in your curbside bin. If you exceed this capacity regularly, contact us to purchase service for a 2nd bin. If you are planning a party, and will need extra compostable waste picked up, see below for our option to purchase stickers for event collection.

Textile Recycling / Yard Waste / Event Collection
Subscribers can have textiles, yard waste, and event waste collected with the purchase of stickers. Place the sticker on the bag and leave it next to your green bin for collection. Find out more here. Stickers are available for purchase through your online account.

Ways to reduce bugs and smells
- Keep the inside of your bin dry! Squeeze out tea bags for example.
- Rinse bin and countertop container after emptied and let dry.
- Put baking soda on the bottom of the bin
- Use compostable liners, tying off helps
- Keep bin out of the sun
- Freeze scraps from earlier in the week
- Wrap meat/fish in newspaper like a burrito

What to do if it is snowing or freezing
Unless we notify you of a schedule change, put your bin out when it is snowing. Make sure it is not covered by snow or hiding behind a snowbank. The liners keep food from freezing to the side of the bin.

Holiday Schedule
For most towns, the only holidays we may take off are Thanksgiving and Christmas. On those holidays you may have a schedule delay. We will e-mail you ahead of time with the adjusted schedule. If your pickup day falls on any other holiday, please remember to put out your bin.

Looking for a certified organic cleaner?
Check ewg.org. Anything grade A or B is acceptable.

Need help? Use your online account to:
Purchase bin liners and stickers
Report a missed pickup
Change your address
Check your subscription status
Change your finished compost preference
Update billing
Ask questions

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