

Why Recycle Food Scraps?

Food scraps are one of the largest components of trash sent to landfills and incinerators. However, food scraps are not garbage, they are a resource that can be turned into useful compost.

Recycling food scraps into compost captures their nutrients and energy and returns them to the environment. When food scraps are sent to a landfill or incinerator this resource is lost. In a landfill, food scraps create methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that traps CO₂ and contributes to global warming. When sent to an incinerator, food scraps reduce the efficiency of the incinerator because they contain water and therefore don't burn well.

Composting food scraps turns that story around! Instead of wasting energy trying to burn food, or creating methane from landfilling it, composting food scraps produces a useful and valuable product that gives back to our nutrient life cycle resulting in cleaner soil, water and air.

What Is Compost?

Compost is a soil amendment which enriches our soil. When purchasing a bag of potting soil or putting down "dirt" on your lawn you are using compost.

Compost benefits our landscape by maximizing plant growth, preventing soil erosion and mitigating the frequency of water, fertilizer and pesticide use.

By recycling your food scraps you are reducing waste and creating compost - a double win!

THANK YOU for your participation in Norwalk's Food Scrap Recycling Program!

City of Norwalk

Food Scrap Recycling Guide



Food Scrap Recycling

Here's How To Do It:

1. COLLECT your food scraps at home in a pail or other container.

Although, not required, you may line your pail or other container with a BPI certified Compostable Bag but NOT a Plastic Bag.

2. TRANSFER food scraps into a larger pail or bucket with a cover for weekly storage. It is recommended that food storage bins be kept indoors – either in the house or in the garage.

3. BRING your food scraps in a pail or bucket to a drop-off location to dispose of your food scraps. Food scraps can be transferred into the drop-off bins either in a BPI certified compostable bag or simply unbagged.

All material collected will be brought to a commercial composting facility where it will be turned into compost.

Drop-off Location and Hours:

The Food Scrap Recycling drop off-bins are located at the:

- Norwalk Transfer Station (**61 Crescent St**). Drop-offs can be made any day the Station is open.
- Rowayton Community Center (**33 Highland Ave**), behind the library and across from the equipment garage. Drop-offs can be made Mondays from 8:30am to 1:30pm.

There is no charge to drop off food scraps.

QUESTIONS? Email

Composting@NorwalkCT.org



Accepted Items:

- ALL FOOD, including:
 - Fruits and Vegetables (remove stickers, bands, ties)
 - Meat and Poultry (bones ok)
 - Fish and Shellfish (shells ok)
 - Dairy Products
 - Bread and Pasta
 - Rice and Grains
 - Egg Shells
 - Chips and Snacks
 - Nuts and Seeds
 - Leftover, Spoiled and Expired Food (cooked ok)
 - Coffee Grounds (paper filters ok)
- Tea Bags (no staples)
- Paper Towels and Napkins (Colored OK; NOT soiled with cleaning supplies)
- Cut Flowers
- Compostable Bags – BPI Certified (**NO PLASTIC BAGS**)

Items Not Accepted:

- Plastic bags, plastic packaging and wrappers are never allowed in the bins. Plastic does not biodegrade and therefore will contaminate the compost. Use only compostable bags, paper bags or no bags.
- Baby/Hand wipes are never allowed in the bins. They are synthetic, do not biodegrade and will contaminate the compost.
- Cups, plates, containers, utensils, etc. that are labeled compostable.
- **Please NO PET WASTE!**
- If unsure about an item, please email us before putting it in the bin: Composting@Norwalkct.org

Additional Information:

Starter kits can be purchased from the City of Norwalk for \$25. Kits include one 2-gallon countertop pail, one 6-gallon home storage & transportation bin and two rolls of 25 compostable bags for the pail.

Information on where to buy kits is available at www.norwalkct.org