

Getting the most out of your Compost Cart (by putting the right things into it)

What is accepted in the compost program?

(Seasonal weekly pickup through Dec. 5, 2014, on curb before 7 a.m.)

- Plate scrapings and food waste (including meat and bones)*
- Uncoated paper plates, cups, napkins, paper towels, etc.*
- Bamboo dinnerware*
- Grass clippings*
- Leaves
- Brush
- Branches
< 6" diameter
(cart lid must close)
- Unpainted, untreated lumber
(cart lid must close)
- Weeds
- Halloween pumpkins
- Undecorated holiday trees
- Garden pruning, garden surplus, crab apples, etc.



**These items are only accepted in compost carts in order to avoid attracting wildlife, or creating odors and unsafe conditions of wet, overweight, broken bags at the curb. Items placed in compost carts do not need to be bagged or bundled.*

Why can't all paper products be composted?

Traditional paper cups and plates have a thin coating of petroleum-based plastic to improve durability. This plastic lining is not compostable, and these products are not accepted in the city's curbside compost program. Uncoated paper cups and plates are manufactured without this lining, enabling full decomposition in the municipal compost program.

What about compostable plastic?

Not all items marked compostable, bio-compostable, or PLA are safely or fully biodegradable. The only acceptable "plastic" in your composting cart are BPI-certified compostable bags and products, which are available in local stores and online.

The City of Ann Arbor does not accept compostable plastic foodware.

Tips to stem odor.

- Use a BPI-certified bag to line your kitchen composter or cart.
- Line the bottom of your compost cart with shredded paper, newspaper, cardboard, or paper bags to absorb excess moistures, which causes odor.
- Sprinkle baking soda in your compost cart and in your kitchen composter.
- Store your compost cart in the shade during warm weather.
- Empty the contents of your kitchen composter into your compost cart frequently.
- Drain as much liquid as you can from food scraps before adding them to your compost.
- For extra-smelly food scraps: wrap in newspaper before placing in your composter/cart or put in the freezer until collection day.
- Layer food scraps in between yard waste.
- Rinse out your kitchen composter and your compost cart before materials build up.
- Spray the inside of your cart with a vinegar and water solution.

NO:

- Plastic Bags
- PLA Biodegradable Plastic
- Trash or Recyclables
- Stones, Dirt, or Sod
- Animal Waste
- Logs (over 6" in diameter)
- Tree Stumps
- Painted or Treated Wood