

# Organics

## Recycling at work



### All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



### Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels



### Certified compostable products

- Compostable cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

Look for the term "compostable" or the BPI logo on certified products.



### Other compostable items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Tissues
- Plants and flowers
- Wooden items such as chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks



**Not accepted:** Plastic-coated items like coffee and soda cups, and uncertified to-go containers • diapers and sanitary products • frozen food boxes • milk cartons • products labeled "biodegradable" • cleaning wipes • grease or oil • Styrofoam™ • recyclable items (glass, metal, paper, plastic) • microwave popcorn bags • gum • fast food wrappers and condiment packets

# Avoid contamination

If you are confused about what to put in the organics bin, stick to the basics!

## All food waste is accepted



Food waste makes up the bulk of waste that can be composted, so you still make a positive difference even if you only put food in the organics bin.

## Put it in the trash if you are unsure



Items that cause contamination increase processing costs and may result in lower-quality compost. If you aren't sure what to do with an item, put it in the trash bin.

## Watch for greenwashing

Greenwashing is a marketing strategy in which companies use several tactics to mislead consumers into thinking their products are better for the environment than is actually the case. "Biodegradable" or "oxo-degradable" labeled products may contain plastic and cannot be composted. Look for products that are labeled "compostable" or the BPI logo on certified products.

## Save the food



Learn tips on how to prevent food waste by cooking it, storing it, or sharing it at [savethefood.com](http://savethefood.com).

## Why compost?



Collecting organics for composting helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and supports the local economy. Finished compost is commonly used to provide nutrients in gardens or roadside plantings.

**Hennepin County**

Environment and Energy

[hennepin.us/businessorganics](http://hennepin.us/businessorganics)

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