



a quick guide to curbside **COMPOST**

How to Get Started Using Your New Curbside Compost Cart

**Your curbside compost cart has been delivered!
Now let's get started by following these steps:**

**STEP
1**

Select a good place for your curbside bin

Focus on accessibility, shade to prevent pests and odors, and shelter from rain and snow. Remember, you are not making more organic waste than you did before, you're just separating it into a different bin, which actually keeps your trash from producing odor. You may line your bin if you choose (not required). Use a paper bag, or a compostable bag with BPI or CMA certification. If you line your countertop bin (see below), you do not need to also line your curbside bin.

DO NOT LINE YOUR BIN WITH A PLASTIC BAG.

**STEP
2**

Keep compost clean

Know what goes in your compost cart and what needs to stay OUT

Your new cart is a soil-making machine! Please use it for your organic materials (e.g., food scraps and yard trimmings). They will go to a compost facility to be made into finished compost, a valuable soil amendment! We recommend printing out the full guidelines and posting them in your kitchen. Full guidelines are available at [\[link to web address here\]](#).

Add logo, website, contact information here

WHAT GOES IN:

Keep it simple, and limit what goes in to these four categories:

- **Trimmings from your yard**, such as grass clippings, leaves, small branches, etc.
- **Food scraps**, including dairy, meat, eggshells, bones, and coffee grounds
- **Compostable papers**, such as paper towels
- **Certified compostable products**, such as to-go containers

WHAT STAYS OUT:

It is VERY difficult to remove contamination such as plastic and glass from compost, so we are counting on YOU to keep your compost clean! Watch for these sneaky contaminants and keep them out of the cart:

- **Produce labels, stickers, rubber bands, twist-ties**
- **Plastic-coated papers**, including coffee cups, paper plates, etc.
- **Plastic bags**—DO NOT BAG YOUR COMPOST IN A PLASTIC BAG. Please use either no bag, or a certified compostable bag or paper bag.

NOTE: If product labeling does not say it's certified compostable, don't throw it in!

STEP 3

Set up an easy system so no organics go to waste

Your compostable organic material primarily comes from two places—your kitchen and your yard. To make it easy to catch food scraps in your kitchen, start collecting food scraps each time you prepare a meal and store them in a container kept on your countertop or under your sink. You can keep this container unlined and rinse it out between uses, or if you'd like to line it, be sure to use a certified compostable bag or a paper bag. If you use smaller bags, you do not need a large bag to line your cart.

When the container is full (or at least every other day), take it outside to your curbside and empty it.

STEP 4

Put your curbside cart out for pickup on your assigned day

Make sure your bin is on the sidewalk, and not blocked by garbage bins, trees, etc. You can find your collection day at [\[add website address link here\]](#).

Do not jam your cart full. Your cart needs to fully and easily empty when tipped. Please note that contaminated bins may not be collected.





COMPOST

YES

FOOD SCRAPS AND YARD TRIMMINGS
DESPERDICIOS DE COMIDA Y RECORTES DE JARDÍN



Remove stickers, twist ties, rubber bands, and packaging.
Sin etiquetas, alambres de plástico, ligas, o empaquetado.

YES

COMPOSTABLE PAPERS
PAPEL COMPOSTABLE



YES

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLES
COMPOSTABLES CERTIFICADOS



NO



plastic bags
bolsas de plástico



stickers, twist ties, or rubber bands
pegatinas, alambres de plástico, o bandas elásticas



plastic-coated paper
papel recubierto en una plástico

**STEP
5**

Give yourself a pat on the back—you're composting!

Composting your food scraps reduces the amount of waste going to landfills or incinerators and prevents methane release at landfills. When finished compost is applied to landscapes like lawns, gardens, and farms, it enriches soil, giving new plants nutrients to grow, and it even draws carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, reversing climate change!

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR CURBSIDE BIN CLEAN!



- Keep your curbside compost bin out of the sun and heat.
- Line your curbside bin with dried yard trimmings such as grass clippings and leaves that absorb moisture and odors.
- If your compost hauler allows, line your bin with a certified compostable bag.
- Clean your curbside bin regularly! After each collection, give your bin a quick rinse. For a deeper clean, use a vinegar and baking soda mixture to clean your bins—avoid soaps and chemical cleaners, which can damage local ecosystems and water sources.

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR COUNTERTOP COMPOST CONTAINER CLEAN

- Invest in a kitchen compost container with a filter system that reduces odors.
- Keep your countertop compost bin out of sunlight—heat will intensify odors!
- Line your container with compostable liners such as newspaper, paper towels, parchment paper, or a certified compostable bag.
- Before tossing items into your container, drain all liquids.
- Add a sprinkling of baking soda to the bottom of your container.
- If you have room, store food scraps in the freezer and put them in your curbside compost bin on your collection day.

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