

Approximately 30% of household waste in Ontario consists of yard material or food waste that is compostable!

Putting garden and kitchen material in a compost bin removes these materials from curbside waste collection and saves landfill space. Composting reduces greenhouse gases that are produced when organic material decomposes in a landfill without oxygen. Composting is nature's way of recycling. Compost returns nutrients and organic matter to the soil and can reduce, if not eliminate, the need for chemical fertilizers in your garden.



WHAT CAN I COMPOST?

YES! THESE ITEMS CAN BE COMPOSTED

- EGG SHELLS
- GRASS CLIPPINGS
- HORSE, COW, CHICKEN OR RABBIT MANURE
- LEAVES AND GARDEN PRUNINGS
- FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SCRAPS
- TEA BAGS AND COFFEE GROUNDS

NO! DO NOT PUT THESE IN YOUR COMPOST

- MEAT OR BONES
- DAIRY PRODUCTS
- BAKED PRODUCTS
- COOKED RICE
- NAPPIES
- DOG POO
- CAT LITTER
- GLOSSY PAPER
- WALNUT SHELLS
- DISEASED PLANTS
- WEEDS WITH SEEDS
- NON-ORGANICS
- PLASTIC BAGS
- TREATED WOOD SCRAPS

The Township of Malahide offers Composters and Kitchen Food Waste Containers to residents at a nominal cost.



The Kitchen Food Waste Container seals tightly to limit odours and keep pests out; and it is mountable to easily attach to cupboard doors.

How do I compost?

Compostable material is split into two categories:

"Greens" - Nitrogen Rich Materials

- Kitchen scraps including vegetable and fruit scraps, crushed egg shells, tea bags, coffee grounds with filters, and paper towels
- Garden and yard materials
- Grass clippings (or leave this natural fertilizer on the lawn)

"Browns" - Carbon Rich Materials

- Dry leaves
- Sawdust and shavings
- Soil
- Well shredded paper, egg cartons, and cardboard

Composting is about maintaining a good mix of 'greens', and 'browns'. Always cover or mix 'greens', especially food wastes, with a layer of 'browns'. A good technique is to build your compost pile in layers of 'greens' and 'browns' so you won't need to mix the pile.

My Composter has a bad odour!

The pile does not have enough air or is too wet. Turn the pile (mixing the outside to inside and bottom to top). If the pile is still too wet, add some dry 'brown' materials.

Nothing is happening?

The pile may not have enough nitrogen-rich 'green' materials. Mix in a natural nitrogen source like fresh grass clippings, kitchen scraps, bone or blood meal. If the pile is too dry, add some moisture and mix.

There are insects hovering around my composter!

Insects are interested in the food in your backyard composter. Always bury kitchen scraps with a layer of dry leaves. If 'brown' materials are not available, cover with a layer of soil.

Winter Composting

Save fall leaves to add to the compost pile over the winter and into the spring. With a mulching mower you can eliminate fall raking. Mulch and bag your leaves and use them later in the composter.

Empty your composter in the fall to make room for winter materials. The warmer the composter is the better it will work so adding leaves will help to insulate the pile. Choose a sunny location or pile straw and leaves around the composter.

Use your Kitchen Food Waste Container to minimize the frequency of trips to the Composter during winter months. Keep a shoveled path to the Composter to ensure that composting continues to be embraced all winter long!