

What Can I Put in My Black Earth Compost Bin?

YAY!

Food Waste

- COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS
- BPI, CMA, OK Compost CERTIFIED COFFEE PODS*
- NONSYNTHETIC TEA BAGS (okay to incl. staple)
- EGGS & EGGSHELLS
- MEAT & SEAFOOD (incl. bones, shells, & raw)
- LOBSTER SHELLS (makes the compost rich)
- FRUITS & VEGGIES (incl. stems, skins, pits, seeds, corn cobs, fruit from trees) (stickers removed)
- DAIRY (cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- PASTA, GRAINS & BREAD
- COOKIES, CAKE & CANDY
- NUT & COCONUT SHELLS
- COOKING OIL & GREASE (leave in an aluminum can on lid if liquid and scrape into bin if solidified)

Household Items

- WOOD (toothpicks, popsicle sticks, chopsticks, sawdust, small wood fruit containers)
- STOVE, GRILL & FIREPLACE ASH (please tie off bag)
- COTTON BALLS (no bodily fluids)
- WINE CORKS (cork, not plastic!)
- PET FOOD
- PET WASTE FROM RABBIT, CHICKEN, GUINEA PIG, HAMSTER & BIRD (incl. bedding) (no dog or cat)
- HAIR, FUR, FEATHERS (human & animal)
- HOUSE PLANTS & FLOWERS
- LEAVES & GARDEN WASTE (with purch. of stickers, see next page) (no grass or sticks over 1" dia.)
- PUMPKIN (remove candle and decorations, one per pick up, place on top of bin)

Food Soiled Paper & Compostables

Clean paper and cardboard are better recycled. We take the following items that are food soiled, but not chemical or cleaner soiled.

- NAPKINS & PAPER TOWELS (incl. bleached) (used on food or w/ organic certified household cleaner)
- COMPOSTABLE TABLEWARE: CUPS, PLATES, UTENSILS, ETC. (MUST be certified compostable*)
- TISSUES (no bodily fluids incl. nasal mucus)
- EGG CARTONS & PAPER TOWEL TUBES
- NEWSPAPER (for wrapping food, please recycle otherwise)
- CARDBOARD BOXES (for lining bin, please recycle otherwise, tape & labels removed)
- CARDBOARD Pizza Boxes (please recycle first if accepted in your town)

NAY!

Packaging

- ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC: cups, containers, food & candy wrap, chip bags, shopping bags, garbage bags, produce bags, plastic wrap, cellophane etc.
- ABSOLUTELY NO CARTONS: milk, juice, ice cream, shelf-stable cream, broth & soup containers (they have hidden plastic & foil components)
- NO PRODUCE STICKERS, RUBBER BANDS, TIES & ALL PRODUCE & MEAT PACKAGING
- NO MEAL BOX INSULATION
- NO BIODEGRADABLE PACKING PEANUTS
- NO TAKE OUT CONTAINERS & CUPS (most are not compostable, check if certified compostable*)

Household Items

- NO BODILY FLUID (blood, mucus, snot)
- NO USED COMPOSTABLE DIAPERS (sorry!)
- NO DOG or CAT WASTE (incl. cat litter)
- NO DEAD ANIMALS
- NO GRASS CLIPPINGS (subscribe to an approved organic yard care partner and we can take it!)
- NO LAUNDRY LINT & DRYER SHEETS
- NO TEXTILES (recycling is available with sticker)
- NO DENTAL FLOSS, Q-TIPS, SANITARY PRODUCTS
- NO CHRISTMAS TREES or WREATHS

Paper

- NO SHREDDED PAPER
- NO MAIL, ENVELOPES, SHINY PAPER, MAGAZINES, CEREAL BOXES (due to colored ink & plastics)
- NO PLASTIC or WAXED CARDBOARD
- NO WAX or PARCHMENT PAPER (unless certified*)
- NO CHEMICALLY-SOILED PAPER (baby & disinfectant wipes, paper used w/ chemical cleaners, house paint, machine oil, etc.)

*Compostable products must be **BPI, CMA, or OK Compost** certified. Items that say biodegradable, compostable or ASTM-6400 alone are NOT accepted. Look for these logos, check the search tool on each website, or contact the product company if unsure.



Black Earth Compost Tips

Where to place your bin for pickup

When placing your bin on the curb, check to make sure it is visible for your driver and not behind an obstruction such as a tree, fence, or snowbank. Your driver will not see the bin if it is left on your porch.

Lining your bin

Line your bin with a brown paper bag or compostable liner. If using compostable liners, you can line the curbside bin or the countertop container (you do not need to line both).

Purchase liners for the curbside bin or countertop container through your online [account](#) and they will be delivered during your next scheduled pickup. If you purchase liners somewhere else, make sure they are [BPI](#), [CMA](#), or [OK Compost](#) certified..

DO NOT STORE LINERS IN THE BIN. The driver may flip the bin over and empty everything inside.

What if I have extra food waste?

Aside from pumpkins, pizza and shipping boxes everything needs to fit in your bin. If you exceed this capacity regularly, contact us to purchase service for a 2nd bin. If you are planning a party, and will need extra compostable waste picked up, purchase stickers for event collection.

Ways to reduce bugs and smells.

- Keep the inside of your bin dry! Squeeze out tea bags for example.
- Rinse bin and countertop container after emptied and let dry.
- Put baking soda on the bottom of the bin
- Use compostable liners, tying off helps
- Keep bin out of the sun
- Freeze scraps from earlier in the week
- Wrap meat/fish in newspaper like a burrito

Visit blackearthcompost.com/bin-maintenance for more tips on maintaining your bin.

What to do if it is snowing or freezing

Unless we notify you of a schedule change, put your bin out when it is snowing. Make sure it is not covered by snow or hiding behind a snowbank. The liners keep food from freezing to the side of the bin.

Textile Recycling / Yard Waste / Event Collection

Subscribers can have textiles, yard waste, and event waste collected with the purchase of stickers. Place the sticker on the bag and leave it next to your green bin for collection any day there is no rain in the forecast. Stickers are available for purchase through your [online account](#). Find out more [here](#).

- TEXTILE RECYCLING (Use white drawstring trash bag w/ sticker. Max of 3 bags per wk.)

ACCEPTED: All clothing including belts, hats, intact shoes, jackets, gloves, etc. Any fabric like towels, curtains, linens, fabric scraps, etc.

NOT ACCEPTED: Carpets/rugs, comforters, pillows or other inserts, heavily worn shoes or stuffed animals. Any wet, moldy, or mil-dewy textiles.

- YARD WASTE (Use yard waste bag w/ sticker. Max of 5 bags per wk.)

ACCEPTED: Leaves, weeds, small plants, sticks

smaller than a half inch round, soiled paper products

NOT ACCEPTED: Grass from non-organic lawns

(subscribe to our preferred lawn care service and we can take it!), sticks greater than a half inch round.

Holiday Schedule

For most towns, the only holidays we may take off are Thanksgiving and Christmas. On those holidays you may have a schedule delay. We will email you ahead of time with the adjusted schedule. If your pickup day falls on any other holiday, please remember to put out your bin.

Looking for a certified organic cleaner?

Check ewg.org. Anything grade A or B is acceptable.

Need help? Use your [online account](#) to:

Purchase bin liners, stickers or replacement bin

Report a missed pickup

Request an address change

Change your finished compost selection

Update billing

Ask questions

