

## Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, requires businesses to collect organics (food scraps).

Affected commercial property owners and managers are required to:

- 1 Have food scrap collection service
- 2 Collect food scraps from back-of-house, nonpublic areas
- 3 Label containers
- 4 Provide organics collection education
- 5 Submit annual report

### Donated food

Edible food can be donated to organizations that help people in need but must be used in combination with organics collection services (e.g., hauler services for composting or animal feed) to capture all food scraps.

### Learn more

More information about the requirements and how to comply is available at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *business recycling requirements* or contact 952-891-7557.

## Businesses in Dakota County are required to collect food scraps



Environmental Resources  
14955 Galaxie Ave., Apple Valley, MN 55124



# Requirements for businesses to collect food scraps

Businesses are required to collect organics from back-of-house areas, such as pre-consumption food waste from kitchen prep areas, dishwashing and storage areas but not food that has been served to the public.

**This phased requirement applies to businesses in the below sectors that:**

- **Contract to collect at least eight cubic yards (one ton) of trash per week and**
- **Generate food scraps in back-of-house operations.**

## JANUARY 1, 2022

- Food wholesalers, distributors and manufacturers
- Grocery stores

## JANUARY 1, 2023

- Hospitals
- Schools, colleges and universities with dining services

## JANUARY 1, 2024

- Farmers markets
- Food shelves and food banks
- Golf and country clubs
- Hotels
- Large event venues with organics
- Nursing and residential care facilities
- Office buildings with dining services
- Public or rentable commissaries or kitchens
- Restaurants
- Shopping centers
- Sports venues, event centers and caterers

All businesses required to collect food scraps are also required to have conventional recycling and follow best practices. Similar requirements apply; however, recycling is required in all areas of businesses, not just back-of-house areas.

# Business food scrap collection requirements

**County ordinance requires commercial property owners and managers to:**

## 1 Have food scrap collection service

Contract with a trash hauler or permitted livestock animal feeder/manufacturer for organics collection services. Work with your service provider to increase service levels if organics carts or dumpsters are overflowing.

## 2 Collect food scraps from back-of-house, nonpublic areas

Provide containers in back-of-house areas that are large enough to collect all food scraps without overflowing or result in food scraps being placed in recycling or trash containers. Only an incidental amount of food scraps may be disposed of in a garbage disposal.

Keep the Designated List of Contaminants out of organics including: recyclables (glass, paper, metal, cartons), plastic items, and refrigerator and freezer boxes.



## 3 Label containers

Label each organics container with standardized labels. All labels must:

- Use the standardized term “Organics.”
- Be color-coded: Green for organics.
- Use county standardized images of the designated organics materials to collect.

**Order or download free labels from Dakota County that meet these requirements.**

Replace labels if they become damaged, unreadable or when images or text conflict with county label requirements. Organics service providers are responsible for labeling carts and dumpsters they provide to businesses.

## 4 Provide organics collection education

Provide standardized education at least once a year to each employee, tenant, housekeeping and custodial contractor, and any other contractor that is responsible for sorting, collecting or managing organics. Also, provide education within 30 days of a new hire and within 30 days of a substantial change to the organics collection program. Businesses must document and keep records of education activities.

Education must cover what to collect and how to properly sort organics in accordance with education requirements listed on the county’s website.

**Get free educational resources from Dakota County that meet these requirements.**

## 5 Submit annual report

Report organics collection program effectiveness, including education activities, to Dakota County each year. The county will provide the report form.