

# Food scraps drop-off vs. backyard composting

Food scraps like fruits and veggies can go into your backyard compost. Do not add meat, bones, fish and dairy—they can attract rodents, spread bacteria and plant diseases. Instead, use the food scraps drop-off sites for these items. They are accepted at the food scraps drop-off sites because they are taken to a commercial compost facility that maintains higher temperatures to kill bacteria and break down the materials faster than a backyard compost pile.



## Questions?

[foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us)  
952-891-7557

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *food scraps*



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**Turn your food scraps  
into something good**  
at a food scraps drop-off site near you



# It's free and easy to drop off your food scraps.

## 1 Sign up

Dakota County residents can sign up online, by email or phone:

- [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *food scraps* or scan the QR code
- [foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us)
- 952-891-7557



After you sign up, you will receive more information and free certified compostable bags in the mail.

## 2 Start collecting

Line a container with a BPI-certified compostable bag and start collecting food scraps, including:

- Produce, fruits and vegetables
- Bakery and dry goods
- Dairy products
- Eggs and eggshells
- Coffee grounds
- Meat, fish and bones



## 3 Drop off

Drop off bags as often as needed.



## Why drop off your food scraps?

The No.1 item in our trash is food. Instead of trashing it, turn food scraps into rich compost—a soil additive that increases the nutrients in soil, reduces erosion and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers.

When you use the food scraps drop-off program, your food scraps are turned into compost. When your food scraps are composted, everyone benefits—you, your community and the environment.

